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Missouri '69
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By Paul Hornung

Columbus, Ohio Dispatch sports editor Paul Hornung is vet Big Ten grid expert and has keen knowledge of midwest football doings.

Mid-West

IRISH, WOLVERINES AND BUCKEYES FLEX MUSCLES FOR NATIONAL HONORS

PREDICTIONS

Big 10

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Michigan | 6. Indiana |
| 2. Ohio State | 7. Purdue |
| 3. Illinois | 8. Michigan State |
| 4. Minnesota | 9. Wisconsin |
| 5. Iowa | 10. Northwestern |

Independents

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Notre Dame | 5. Youngstown State |
| 2. Cincinnati | 6. Illinois State |
| 3. Akron | 7. Dayton |
| 4. Wayne State | 8. Eastern Illinois |

Mid-American

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Western Michigan | 6. Bowling Green |
| 2. Ohio U. | 7. Miami |
| 3. Kent State | 8. Toledo |
| 4. Central Michigan | 9. Eastern Michigan |
| 5. Ball State | 10. Northern Illinois |

Ohio Conference

Red Division

1. Wittenberg
2. Ohio Northern
3. Capital
4. Muskingum
5. Wooster
6. Heidelberg

* Not in title race

Blue Division

1. Baldwin-Wallace
2. Otterbein
3. Marietta
4. Mt. Union
5. Ohio Wesleyan
6. Denison
- * Kenyon
- * Oberlin

Make that the "Big THREE" in the Mid-West this year: The "Big Two" of the Big 10 and the "Big One" at South Bend.

OK, so it's usually the "Big Three", but this time it REALLY is.

Consider the past and the present justification for such a forecast:

- When college football's longest-ever season finally packed in on Jan. 1, 1977, Michigan, though beaten again in the Rose Bowl, held unanimous 3rd place in the final polls;

- Ohio State, an impressive comeback winner in the Orange Bowl, ranked 5th and 6th, depending on the poll; and,

- Notre Dame, with a convincing success in the

Gator Bowl, nudged up to 12th.

Now, gearing for the '77 drive for national recognition:

- Dan Devine has all 11 defensive starters returning at Notre Dame—a rarity for any coach—and eight on offense;

- Woody Hayes returns eight Ohio State regulars on each platoon, including his quarterback; and,

- Bo Schembechler lists nine Michigan holdovers on offense, including his quarterback and entire line, and six on defense.

As always, each replenished the ranks with blue chip recruits.

Notre Dame, with the nation as its "league", puts its hopes on the line in the opening game against defending champion Pittsburgh (2-0 against the Irish in the last two years). Devine frets "many people expect them to be better than last year, even without (Tony) Dorsett."

He'll face the assignment with a new quarterback, but shed no tears for ol' Dan. He'll have the school's all-time single-season rusher, Al Hunter, heading a veteran corps of backs; an awesome tight end in Ken MacAfee and that powerful defensive unit, ignited by maybe the best and most exciting defensive player in college football, Ross Browner.

Browner is a consensus All-America, the '76 Outland Trophy winner and the scourge of enemy QB's.

If the quarterbacking is adequate—which it probably will be—and the defense plays up to its early-season form of last year, the Irish could turn the Pitt confrontation into a springboard to a super season.

Regardless, Notre Dame should be back in a major Bowl—and surely in the poll's Top 10, if not atop it.

Absolutely nothing suggests a change in the Big 10 championship routine. It would be the shock of the year if Ohio State and Michigan aren't playing for the title and the Rose Bowl for the eighth time in nine years Nov. 19 at Ann Arbor.

The Wolverines ripped the Buckeyes 22-0 last November, with a devastating second half, but the traditional rivals shared the league championship for the fifth time in the last eight seasons.

Schembechler, 76-11-3 in his eight years at Michigan, still trails his former coach and boss, Hayes, by 3-4-1 in their personal rivalry and 1-2 in outright Big 10 crowns. Hayes is 72-13-1 over the same period, but 189-54-9 for his 26 years at Ohio State.

Notre Dame tenth with 61,075.

Mid-American Commissioner Fred Jacoby contends his league has profited greatly by the freshman rule and could benefit as well from the 95 scholarship limit.

"I think it will have an inverse pyramiding effect," he suggests, with more talent now available to the MAC and comparable leagues and on down through NCAA Division II and III.

It can't balance the MAC much more. It's always a wild scramble and this year is normal. Western Michigan, Ohio U. and Kent State, probably in that order, seem likely to replace surprise '76 champion Ball State, with Central Michigan also a distinct possibility.

Wittenberg edged Baldwin-Wallace in the Ohio Conference championship play-off last year, after a slow start due to extensive rebuilding. B-W won its division in spite of a bewildering series of injuries. Dave Maurer and Lee Tressel now have veteran ball clubs and must be picked for a repeat.

New coaches in the Mid-West: Young, Moeller, Ralph Staub at Cincinnati; Denny Stolz at Bowling Green; Charlie Cowdrey at Illinois State and Tom Hollman at Wooster.

Figures in parentheses are 1976 all-game and, league records.

LEGENDS: Y-Yards Gained; C-Pass Completions; R-Pass Receptions; T-Touchdowns.

BIG TEN

MICHIGAN (10-2, 7-1)—Bo Schembechler recognized criticism of his offense after the Rose Bowl. "But," he defended, "I can't look at the first 11 games and say we were doing things all wrong."

The 45-year-old survivor of a heart attack and open heart surgery believes "we have the most sophisticated option attack in the country" and assures, "we don't want to destroy it. If we can improve and emphasize a little more passing, while still keeping that, perhaps we'll do a bit more throwing."

That's not acquiescence to people who want the Wolverines to take to the air more frequently. "I want to improve our passing," Schembechler concedes. "I want to do it more effectively."

He hired Don Nehlen to work with Rick Leach and the other UM quarterbacks. Nehlen's Bowling Green teams usually had good passing attacks.

But Schembechler staunchly backed his brilliant junior QB as a passer. "Rick only threw for 1000 yards and 13 TD's as a sophomore," the coach reminded, admitting "he didn't throw well in the two big games."

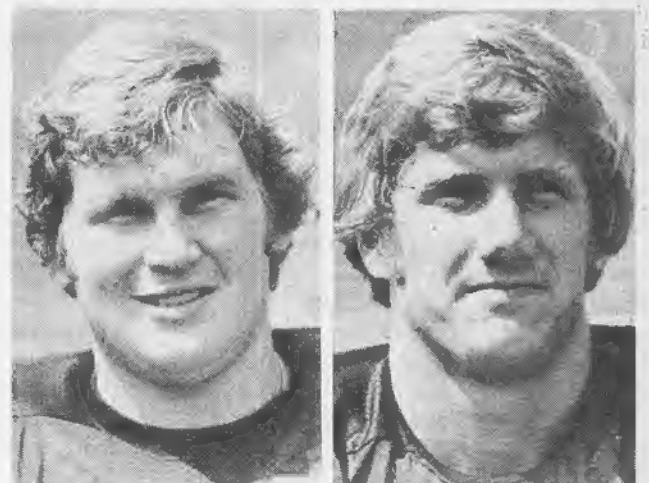
Leach, a 6-1, 180-pounder coming up for his third season as a starter, hit 50 of 105 in 12 games for 978y and netted 638 (735 without pass-play losses) on the option, at which he is magnificent. He doesn't have the speed and quickness of Rod Gerald, but he's a very effective runner.

Graduation claimed WB Jim Smith, whom Schembechler rates the finest receiver he's coached, but the wide spots are still well-covered by Curt Stephenson (6-1, 178), last year's regular SE; Rick



RICK LEACH, Michigan QB, is standout on option play.

MARK DONAHUE, left, at offensive guard, plays key role for Michigan as does rugged DE JOHN ANDERSON.



White (6-5, 205), who, apparently finally recovered from knee trouble, earned a starting chance with a great spring practice; Max Richardson, two-year understudy to Smith, and 6-2, 185 speedster Rod Feaster, a freshman hailed as a sure-fire varsity star.

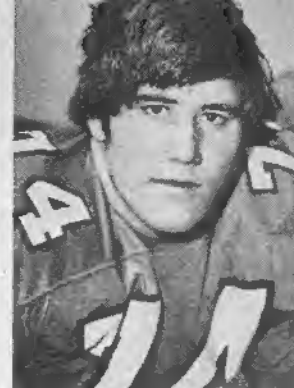
Gene Johnson (6-3, 223) and Mark Schmerge (6-3, 230), last year's 1-2 TE's also are available.

But it's hard to believe Schembechler will use the pass as more than an auxiliary weapon. Colloquially speaking, he "weren't brought up that way." He's steeped in—and sold on—infantry tactics and he has all the ingredients.

Graduate Rob Lytle was a truly extraordinary back (1469 yards rushing and inestimable other contributions), but, if Bo has no Rob Lytle, he has many running talents.

Harlan Huckleby (6-2, 196), a Big 10-class sprinter in track, sped 912y last year from TB, when Lytle played FB, and powerful Russell Davis (6-2, 215) churned 568y at FB when Lytle was at TB. Both juniors appear ready to achieve the stardom expected when they enrolled.

Schembechler has plenty of depth. Soph Ralph Clayton (6-3, 210) will challenge for game time at either TB or WB. Lawrence Reed and Gerald Diggs, two other little-used sophs, still rate high and the



KEVIN PANCRAZ, 245, anchors Illini offensive line from guard position.

KURT STEGER enters 3rd year as quarterback of improved Illini team.

OSU also has backfield depth. Rickey Johnson, held back by injuries as a frosh last fall, will be a first-rate back-up at TB, and Hayes has recruited several nationally-rated high school stars, 6-1, 225 Felix Lee, Doug Donley, Calvin Murray and Vince Skillings.

Soph Greg Castignola solidified his back-up status at QB in the spring and recruits include Springs' junior college teammate, speedy Alvin Taylor.

The defense, which yielded 149 points last season, will miss all-Big 10 Bob Brudzinski (E), Nick Buonamici (T) and Ed Thompson, (LB), but it should still be as strong as any in the league.

Aaron Brown (MG, 6-2, 228), Tom Counsineau (LB, 6-3, 224), and Ray Griffin (S) were all-Big 10 last year and Eddie Beamon (T, 6-2, 254) second-team. The muscular Counsineau led in tackles last year (184) as a sophomore and is an All-America prospect.

Griffin, brother of Archie, ranks with any in the country. His speed, hard-hitting and natural instincts make him a prime pro interest.

Kelton Dansler (6-2, 205) returns at E, after a notable soph year, and the other probably will be Paul Ross (6-1, 224), No. 3 linebacker last year, but converted with success in the spring. Dave Adkins (6-2, 214) moves up at the other LB spot and backup Byron Cato (6-2, 234) at T.

Regulars Joe Allegro, Tom Roche and Mike Guess join Griffin in the secondary, but Lennie Mills, a '75 part-time starter, injured last year, and Duncan Griffin (third of the brothers) seriously challenged last spring.

Also, Hayes' recruits include All-America Todd Bell (6-2, 195), a potential Olympic trackman, and all-Ohio Kerwin Ellis, both DB's.

Perhaps Ohio State's most damaging graduation loss was Tom Skladany, an All-America punter (42.4 av.) who also kicked extra points and field goals and kicked off. He wasn't replaced as of spring practice and could be missed—badly.

The Buckeye schedule calls for a 1977 national-feature clash with Oklahoma, Sept. 24, which may disturb Hayes' traditional plan of pointing for the Big 10 and treating others as exhibition games.

ILLINOIS (5-6, 4-4)—Gary Moeller has never been associated with a loser, player or coach, high school or college. This isn't a year for exceptions.

The former Ohio State player and Michigan assistant knows what it takes to win, how to build a winning program and that it isn't an overnight process.

But he completed spring practice at Champaign convinced that "we can be a pretty good ball club. I'm pleased." If his squad continues to assimilate his pro-I attack and 5-2 defense as smoothly as it did in those 20 sessions, he thinks "we could play with a lot of people."

Last year's units were a puzzling reverse. The offense was 7th in total yards, but 4th in scoring (235 pts.), while the defense was 4th and 7th (248 pts.) in corresponding stats. Moeller inherits six regulars from each platoon.

While the grads included three all-Big 10 choices and a couple others of note, Illinois retains enough talent to make a sixth first division finish in the last seven years a fair expectation—especially since Moeller's first recruiting campaign produced an unusual number of freshmen who could contribute early.

Kurt Steger, the 6-3, 220 senior, comes up for his third year as a QB starter, with still outstanding credentials. Last year, the strong-armed Illini piled up 1243 yards with 87 of 187 passes for 10 TD's and netted 15y on 50 scrambles.

Also a proven Big 10 player is TB Jim Coleman, a 5-9, 180 senior who rushed 687 yards as an alternate starter (with Chubby Phillips) and caught 10 passes for 169. Moeller frets about depth at several spots and this is one of them.

A couple of high-potential freshmen, 6-2, 200 Kip Carmen and 5-11, 180 Matt Weathers, could provide quick bolstering.

Fullback is another thin position. Letterman Mike Collins and junior Charlie Weber ran 1-2 there in the spring, but Wayne Strader (6-3, 205) is an incoming rookie with impressive credentials—and there are three others of note.

Steger has only one of his top receivers returning, Eric Rouse (20r, 326y), who switches from swing-back to split end. Tom Schooley (6-3, 200) moved

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| 6. 10/17 San Diego +4 over Houst. (30-27) | - win | 14. 12/12 Denv. +7½ over Chic. (28-14) | - win |
| 7. 10/24 Cleve. —1 over San Diego (21-17) | - win | 15. 12/18 N.E. +8 over Oak. (21-24) | - win |
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The voice on the telephone was assured and enthusiastic. "This weekend I like the New York Giants over Atlanta in the pros," it said. "I give only five or six top pro picks a season, and the Giants over Atlanta is one of them. It's a five-star special."

The voice belongs to Huey, proprietor of Huey's Enterprises, of Fort Lee, N.J. The Giants are the team that he thinks most likely to beat the bookmakers point spreads in football games this weekend.

Huey's lucrative three-year-old business is what is called a sports information service, or "tip sheet." People who know about such things say that there are about 200 of them around the country. Most have been formed in the last five years to capitalize on the growing propensity of Americans to wager on the outcome of college and pro football games and, to a lesser extent, basketball.

Indeed, those who have made a go of the tip sheet business admit that they base their choices more on hard work than on knowing secrets. Huey, who made a gambling line for a sports newspaper before striking out on his own, says he "occasionally" gets useful tidbits from college students he knows ("like whether the quarterback is getting along with his girl") and from a lawyer friend who represents several pro athletes.

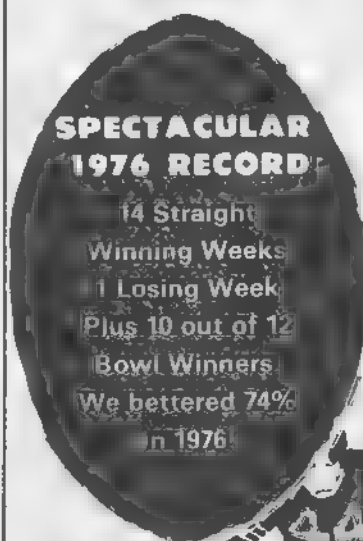
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wiped out by graduation. The only TB with experience is Nick Rollick (97y), but he gave way in the spring to JC transfer Leroy McGee.

Rogers recruited four TB's from around the country, all said to be promising, all expected to get a quick tryout. The foursome includes Van Williams, Eric Ross, Bruce Reeves and Steve Smith.

Another rebuilding area is the offensive line, although second-team all-Big 10 center Al Pitts (6-4, 235) gives it a powerful starting point. Jim Hinsley (T, 6-2, 254) also returns, with the other spots to be filled from the ranks—Doug Lantz (G), Rod Strata (G), Regis McQuaide (T), Ted Grabenhorst (T).

"Our offense should be improved, if a good tailback develops," Rogers suggests, "and our defense, well, there's no way to go but up."

The Spartans suffered bewildering defensive troubles, particularly in the final two games (42 points to Northwestern, 30 to Iowa). They were 10th in total defense, in the Big 10, and gave up 4099 yards and 278 points in 11 games.

It wasn't because the offense didn't give them help. It produced 4253 yards and 236 points.

Seven defensive regulars resume, led by second-team all-Big 10 Larry Bethea (T, 6-4, 244), leading MSU tackler Dan Bass and Jerome Stanton (CB). The big boost, though, is Tim Rowekamp (MG, 6-2, 250), a 1975 starter who seemed headed for "all" honors when a knee injury cut him down. He went through spring practice and looked super.

Last year's starter, Craig Lonce, is also available and Paul Rudzinski (6-1, 216) returns to his old LB station, after backing Lonce last year.

The secondary may be another worry to Rogers, with three new hands joining Stanton. Tom Graves (6-3, 211), a standout in 1974-75, missed last year and last spring practice and is a question mark for this fall.

One Rogers problem is lack of numbers. He had only 70 athletic scholarship players in the spring and was limited to 25 recruits (instead of 30, because of the NCAA penalty). But he does get one good break: MSU doesn't meet Ohio State for two years.

WISCONSIN (5-6, 3-5)—John Jardine concluded spring practice and looked to his 8th season with more optimism than would appear justified on the surface.

"I don't think of any real area where we need a lot of help," suggested the 42-year-old Jardine, whose contract carries through Dec. 31, 1979. "We go in with solid people at most positions."

He does have a couple truly solid people on offense. RHB Ira Matthews, a 5-9, 178 junior, led the nation in kick-off returns (14 for 415y), rushed for 535y, caught 19 passes for 238y and was second in the Big 10 in punt returns.

SE David Charles, a 6-2, 187 junior, was second in the Big 10 in receiving with 34 for 449y and made second-team all-Big 10.

LHB Mike Morgan, 5-11, 217 senior, is a first-rate running back, although coming off knee surgery. He had 231y when injured in mid-season last year. He played both LH and FB in spring practice and seemed to be recovered.

With leading rusher Larry Canada gone, Jardine made a switch he liked last spring. Tim Halleran, the Badgers' top tackler (104), went from LB to FB and Ken Burroughs from FB to LB.

The 6-1, 212 Halleran cinched the starting job—averaging 7-yards per carry in the spring game—and Burroughs (6-0, 233) was the most pleasant defensive development.

But Jardine's foremost replacement problem was at QB, where Mike Carroll contributed 1773y and 17 TD's. Junior Anthony Dudley emerged from spring workouts as No. 1, with '75 letterman Charlie Green as No. 2.

The 5-11, 167 Dudley carried the ball once and didn't throw a pass last year, so he's totally inexperienced. He's known as a runner primarily, although he passed some in the spring.

Wisconsin's offensive line is solid with holdover starters Steve Lick (6-1, 221) and Tom Kaltenberg (6-5, 251) at the tackles, Brad Jackomino (5-10, 219) at guard and Jim Moore (6-3, 224) at center.

Dave Krall (6-4, 239), a regular until injured, takes over at the other guard and backup Greg Barber (6-4, 214) moves up at tight end.

The offense ranked third in the Big 10 in both total yards and points (298) last year, but that was with Carroll leading the attack.

Jardine's problem was clearly defense and the question in '77 is how much it has improved, if at all. He has five returnees who started more than half the games and two others who were part-time regulars—from a unit that ranked 9th in the Conference.

Burroughs joins a LB corps that was already set with Dave Crossen (6-1, 201) and Lee Washington (6-2, 225). Dennis Stejskal (E, 5-10, 217), a '75 all-Big 10, shores up one flank and Dan Relich (5-11, 204) at MG.

Jardine switched Henry Addy (6-5, 269) from offense to defense to take care of one T spot and much-injured, but high-rated Bob Czechowicz (6-2, 224) will be at the other. Kevin Boodry (6-0, 198) moved up at E.

The secondary was intact until regular Ken Dixon transferred. He'll be replaced by understudy Dan Schieble. Scott Erdmann, one of the better safety-men in the league, sprinter Lawrence Johnson and Greg Gordon are the returning starters.

The Badgers lose star placekicker Vince Lamia, but return punter Dick Milaeger (40.5 av.).

Jardine likes his schedule. "It's a lot different," he notes. What he means is, he doesn't open with Michigan, as in the last two years. It's Indiana instead.

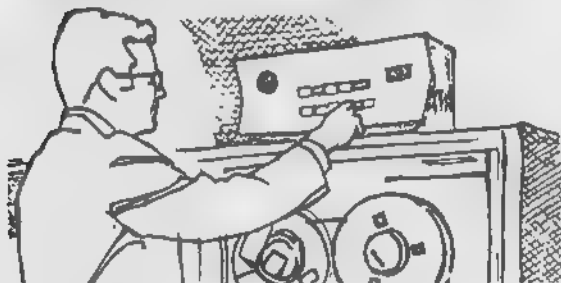
NORTHWESTERN (1-10, 1-7)—When graduation deletes the school's all-time rusher, all-time receiver, fourth-leading passer (and QB) and a twice-all-Big 10 safety, a football coach would be expected to moan, if not sob.

But eternal optimist Johnny Pont insists "we are enthusiastic about the upcoming season." It takes an enthusiast, though, to coach at Northwestern, where attendance at the final '76 games was 15,183 and 15,204.

Pont does have some assets, not the least of which was Paul Maly's decision to use his redshirt year.

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Rick Beeman, passer, seriously challenged in spring.

TB Dave Axler, top back in playoffs, 2-year FB starter Mark Hovanec (6-4, 230) and JC transfer Redell Windley, real scatback, supply strong rushing. Jeff Jesko (T, 6-5, 240) heads line.

Defense keyed by Little all-America LB Steve Cockerham, Charles Parnell (DHB), both 4-year starters, Keith Luck (LB) and Tom Pacenta (T).

WAYNE STATE (8-2)—Dick Lowry may have best team, with 10 starters on offense, nine on defense, but toughest schedule. Offense that boarded 254 points lists 1-2 QB's, Jim Gendron (46c, 669y) and Terry Copacia (34c, 559y), TB Terry Grimes (837y), Slotback Dan Quinn and SE Dean Morrison (30r, 471y). FB Vince Biondo returns, after injury-plagued year. Line well-anchored by Pete Biondo (TE), Pat Carmody (G), Dave Szymanski (T) and John Sokolosky (C). WSU career interception leader (16) Terry Rusin, Jerry Megenity, Bob LaParl and Mark Schimmel represent strong secondary and front defense fortified by return of Joe Kronner (E), Al Hartley, Greg Tomczek (T's) and Jon Zimmer (MG). Randy Epley tops LB corps. Lowry has 32 lettermen and depth is excellent, a plus with stronger schedule.

YOUNGSTOWN (4-6)—Losing all-time total offense leader, QB Cliff Stoudt, can't help but damage Bill Narduzzi's offense. Likely replacement, Keith Snoddy, has little varsity experience, but does have receivers, TE Emmett King (21r), SE Jim Ferranti (22r) and WB Ray Hernan (19r), and top rusher in TB Marschell Brumfield (641y), plus promising FB's Lou Walker and Curt Hoffman. Ralph Orsini (T) and Max Maley (G) head up line that also includes starters Ed McGlasson (C) and Tom Farina (T). Defense, which gave up 217 points, should be improved, with Ron Penta (E) possible Little All-America prospect. Two year tackle leader Greg Fitzpatrick (LB) returns, with Quentin Lowry (E), Terry Dittmer (MG), John DiDomenico (LB), Don McCloud (CB) and Kevin Statzer (S). Help expected from Pat Durina and Tom Jaros (DB's) and frosh Don Purifoy (Dt, 6-8, 255). Chuck Haynali is asset as punter (37.6 av) and kicker (6 of 7 FG's; 15 of 15 EXP.)

ILLINOIS STATE (5-6)—New Coach Charlie Cowdrey inherits 10 defensive starters, but must replace entire offensive backfield. Back-ups Mike Doneff (TB, 271y) and Bill Yocius (FB, 235y) will be challenged by JC transfers Angelo Jackson, Kent Roberts, Alton Battle and Ronald Razz, all swift and promising. QB may be another JC grad, Steve Carstens. SE Jeff Gowan (48r, 696y) and TE Mark Austin (17r) flank regulars Bill Bunting, Pete Mroz (T's), Duff Stewart and John Clucas (G's) for solid front. Offense produced only 120 points last year; may not be improved this year. Defense should be, with Dick Kurtenbach (E), Nate Pigeo (6-6, 268), Jim Lanning (T's), Mark Wallner (LB), Estus Hood and Phil Meyer (CB's) rated standouts. ISU also has potent weapon in kicker Joe Pohlod (12 of 19 FG's; 12 of 12 XPT's).

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DAYTON (4-7)—New Coach Rick Carter inherited toughest schedule in school's history, but some mainstays around which to rebuild.

MVP Sylvester Monroe (987y) returns at TB, along with 6-2, 210 FB Mike Watterson (420y). QB will be one of three reserves, most likely soph Scott Terry. Tom Stellman (T, 6-3, 250) is outstanding in line that also includes Ed Dimitry (T) and Bill Sahnd (C).

End is strong defensive position with Mark Edwards (6-3, 196) and Hyman Gibson (6-2, 185). LB Ed Plaspohl (6-3, 215) is solid holdover.

Carter will have to cut down errors if Flyers match last year's record. They lost 21 fumbles, had 15 interceptions.

EASTERN ILLINOIS (5-6)—John Konstantinos has two feature runners in Chris Cobb (1152y), 13th in the NCAA as a frosh last fall, and Mark Stettner (963y), plus injury-plagued QB Andy Vogl, but line must be rebuilt. Defense returns Kim Wells (S), Andre Phillips (CB), Ray Kemezs (E) and Dennis Ghinazzi (LB), but otherwise inexperienced.

MID-AMERICAN

WESTERN MICHIGAN (7-4, 6-3)—Opening at Minnesota might get the season off to a rocky start, but Elliot Uzelac's rebuilding of Broncos' fortunes should go up from there—maybe all the way.

The offense, third in the league last year (270 pts.), should jump a few notches at least, with the return of Player of the Year Jerome Persell (1505y, 19

JEROME PERSELL, left, raced for 19 touchdowns last year while HOWARD NEVINS was star defender for Broncos.



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By Arnie Burdick

Executive sports editor of Syracuse Herald-Journal for the past 21 years. Arnie Burdick has been involved with athletics and College football for three decades.

East

PREDICTIONS

Independents

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pittsburgh | 5. Navy |
| 2. West Virginia | 6. Boston College |
| 3. Penn State | 7. Army |
| 4. Syracuse | 8. Temple |

Other Independents

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. Rutgers | 3. Holy Cross |
| 2. Colgate | 4. Villanova |

Ivy League

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Yale | 5. Dartmouth |
| 2. Brown | 6. Cornell |
| 3. Harvard | 7. Princeton |
| 4. Penn | 8. Columbia |

Middle Five

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Delaware | 4. Bucknell |
| 2. Lafayette | 5. Gettysburg |
| 3. Lehigh | |

Yankee Conference

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. New Hampshire | 4. Rhode Island |
| 2. Maine | 5. Connecticut |
| 3. Massachusetts | 6. Boston U. |

Little Three

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Wesleyan | 3. Williams |
| 2. Amherst | |

It had been 17 years since college football bowed down and faced the East, but sparked by Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett's elusive feet and Coach Johnny Majors' superlative reconstruction job, the 1976 Pitt Panthers reeled off 12 straight victories and ascended to the National Championship.

Not since Ben Schwartzwalder's undefeated Syracuse machine of '59 has an Eastern eleven run up the "poll" to the cherished No. 1 ranking.

And to add a little more spice to the Eastern picture, Coach Frank Burns' Scarlet Knights of Rutgers rolled to a perfect season and extended their win string to 18, longest major streak in the nation.

In wrapping up National honors, the Panthers put it all together, finishing on a high note by bombing Georgia in the Sugar Bowl when some were questioning Pitt's lofty status.

Now the big query is, "Can they repeat?" Some

like West Virginia and perennial Eastern king Penn State (which was tumbled by Pitt) will be taking dead aim at the Panthers' East Indies title. This is the most realistic of the Eastern crowns, for it lumps just the eight Eastern Independents who are playing all-major schedules in competition for the Cool-Ray Trophy.

The Nittany Lions, too, get first crack at Rutgers' long string in a season opener that was recently scheduled.

Pitt may have lost two of its most valued assets from its title team—Dorsett plus Majors who was wooed back to his Tennessee Alma Mater—but new coach Jackie Sherrill does inherit a good many of the parts that made the Jungle Cats so potent last fall. Elliott Walker, who's been playing in the shadow of Dorsett, is ready to explode, while Matt Cavanaugh is a gifted signal-caller.

Other Pitt stars are a monster of a defensive tackle in Randy Holloway, an exceptional free safety in Bob Jury and a superlative blocker in guard Tom Brzoza. The defensive front could be Sherrill's undoing, but if he can repair that in a hurry, he could be on his way. Pitt has another thing going—teams that start winning, seem to have a greater knack for keeping it going.

The talented Cavanaugh is far from alone in what could be "the Year of the quarterback" in the East. Others with exceptional credentials are Syracuse's Bill Hurley, a streak in a broken field who can also fire on the run; Army's Leamon Hall, who owns one of the strongest arms in the game; and West Virginia's Danny Kendra, a pin-point, picture passer.

Backing up this quartet are such exciting play directors returning as Bob Leszczynski, who triggered Navy's tremendous '76 finish; Penn State's Chuck Fusina, Temple's Pat Carey, Boston College's Ken Smith, Colgate's Bob Relph and Rutgers' Bert Kosup. They all spell trouble for their rivals, but plenty of excitement for the fans.

Perhaps, the most exciting Eastern running backs this fall will be lining up for New England teams. Yale's 1000-yard ball-carrier, John Pagliaro, drove the Ivies dizzy last fall, and there's no reason to believe that his senior campaign won't be an instant replay. Meanwhile, up on the B.C. Heights, Neil Green's ankle is fully repaired. He's the speedster who tore apart the Texas Longhorns before injuries sent him to the sidelines.

There's one other heralded freshman who bears

booter Bill McKenzie is ready to set some more marks. He hit 16 x 17 PAT's last fall, plus 12 field goals to lead WVU in scoring.

Some other defensive people worth watching are tackles Norm Patterson (240) and Allen Pisula (240), ends Ken Braswell and Buzzy Thornton, plus deep back Kevin Berkey.

Overall, this looks like an improved team that WVU will be fielding, and with some luck, Cignetti could have 'em shooting for Eastern honors.

PENN STATE—After five losses last season, including its bowl game to Notre Dame—the first time that's happened to the Mount Nits since Coach Joe Paterno was a rookie head coach—the Lions' winningest mentor has decided to shed his usual bold and optimistic attitude for a wait-and-see role.

So the unusually mum Paterno, obviously not having too much fun with the latest turn of Lion fortunes, has pulled into a shell, and will let his deep, large squad—29 returning lettermen, 15 returning starters—do his talking for him. He hopes they speak loud enough to regain the Eastern crown, something that the Pitts took away from them in the process of gaining the National Championship.

If Coach Joe does have a concern, it would be his interior offensive line, which returns only center Keith Dorney (6-5, 256) to the wars. In fact, Pivot Dorney might play tackle in the fall. Mickey Shuler, a competent tight end, is back to handle that job. The rest of the line is pretty much up for grabs, but the tackles should come from Irv Pankey (6-4, 247), Eric Cunningham, Tony Williott and John Dunn, with the guards being supplied by Paul Renaud (6-3, 259) and George Schechterly (6-4, 236). Andy Onkotz will back up Shuler.

The backfield is all seasoned, with Junior Chuck Fusina, who stepped into the job at mid-season, again directing traffic. Jimmy Cefalo, Scott Fitzkee and Tom Donovan will win two of the three wide-out spots, while Big Bob Torrey will blast from full. The tailback could be a rotation of retreaded Duane Taylor, back after a year of inactivity, Steve Geise, Matt Suhey and Mike Guman. A lack of a breakaway speedback hurt Paterno's fortunes last fall.

Defensively, losing five games has caused Paterno, a dedicated 4-4 man, to experiment in the spring with an Ol' Rip Engle 5-2 set-up. The retired Engle brought Joe to Penn State more than a quarter-century ago. With or without a 5-2, his defense should be improved, for it has a lot of seasoned parts.

The entire deep secondary of Gary Petercuskie, Neil Hutton and Bill Crummy return. So do such solid linebackers as Rick Donaldson, Matt Millen, Joe Diange, Paul Suhey, Tom DePaso and Bruce Clark. Clark and Millen also saw some time during the spring at tackle, while Tony Petruccio (6-4, 233), a starting tackle last fall, has moved over to nose guard. Tackle Randy Sidler will be back in the fall, too. Bill Banks returns at one end, while Joe Lally and Frank Case fight for the other berth.

Besides Taylor, regular linebacker Ron Hostetler who missed the last few games last year due to a knee injury, is expected to be ready for fall duty. His brother Doug, is a defensive back.

Paterno's kicking should be strong again. Tony Capozzoli will again do most of the short field goal and PAT work, with Matt Bahr being used for long FG's and kick-off work. Fitzkee and Dan Leri will do the punting again.

Penn State once again looks strong defensively, but will the attack be able to put enough points on the board against the classier teams on the schedule?

SYRACUSE—Coach Frank Maloney's rebuilding of the Orange machine suffered a setback (8 of 'em actually) last fall, after the fiery midwesterner had given Syracuse its first winning campaign in five seasons the year before.

However, there was excellent spirit and optimism in the Salt City again last spring, as 42 lettermen, led by Quarterback Bill Hurley and Safetyman Larry King, battled for jobs.

The slippery, quick-footed Hurley, after a sad early start caused by inexperience, came like the wind late in the year and figures to be the most exciting QB in the East this fall, his junior campaign. King, the monster of the Orange defense for three years, has been shunted to safety to replace the departed Tim Moresco, the team's leading tackler.

Of course, when a safetyman is making the tackles, the defense is in trouble, and last fall, Syracuse's was. They surrendered 263 points and almost 4000 yards in a reversion to Frank's first year in Orangeland. However, the defensive front, led by three-year tackle regulars Ken Clarke and Bernie Winters, looked sharper, and ends Gerry Martin, Kevin Yard, Bob Tate and Marvin Jones displayed action and quickness. Willie McCullough could lead the team in sacks from his middle guard role. John Cameron is another tackle with possibilities.

The linebackers, all spanking new last fall, have gained from the experience. Sophs John Kinley, Jim Collins and Chris Shaffer, plus junior Steve Spinney all have jumped a notch. The deep secondary is a concern, though Joe Caruso has stepped into King's old rover spot and should do a job. Junior Terry O'Leary looks solid at one corner, while DeShawn Hawkins and Warren Harvey, both with speed, work at the other. Brian Ishman backs up King.

Six starters return from the offensive line, led by split receiver Mike Jones, a perfect, glue-fingered target for Hurley's darting throws. Big Mike can motor once he tucks it, too. Big Rich Rosen and Bruce Semall afford Maloney a pair of fine tight ends, while Craig Wolfley or Neil Barton will work at one tackle, as Larry Archib handles the other along with Lou Kirouac, just coming off knee surgery. Glenn Williams and Don Wells are back at the guards, with improved Paul Colvin (6-3, 235) over the ball.

The running back situation lacks the breakaway speed to take the heat off Hurley. Senior Bob Avery, who's motored for 1144 career yards, is a "steady-Eddie," but Tom Voyda, Jim Sessler and Mandel Robinson seem to lack the quickness and thump that the big fullback must provide. Speedsters Art Monk and Dave Hodge could supply the outside threat.



FRED SMERLAS, Boston College defender, scoops up loose ball by UMass.' Moses Williams in game won by B.C. 35-0 in 1976.



PAUL MC CARTY snared 14 passes for Eagles of Boston College in 1976.

The offensive line was shot by graduation, though several king-size gladiators remain. Tackle Jim Rourke (6-5, 255) returns, plus such letterwinners as John Schmeding (260), Bill Chaplick (247), Jerry Madden (255), plus sophs Mike Hartigan, Greg Cantone, Karl Swanke and Dan Cordeau. Paul McCarty, with 14 catches, paces the returning receivers, though Mike Godbolt, out with injuries last fall, is also back. Pete LaBoy can provide insurance.

Defensively, the front is veteran, headed by huge tackles Fred Smerlas (6-4, 275) and Chuck Morris (6-6, 270). The ends, Bob Moore and Bill Ohrenberger, look solid, too.

The linebacking could be hurting, especially early, for losses were heavy. However, Rich Scudellari, the top tackler, returns, and soph Junior Hogan and Jeff Dziama have had some experience. Clint Gaffney, out with knee problems, returns to try one corner, while Mike Mayock might be at the other. Mike played Safety last fall.

The secondary will again be led by Kelly Elias (7 interceptions). He'll again get help from Jeff Kaufman and Paul Murphy.

The kicking game should be exceptional again, with left-footed Tim Moorman ready to place-kick and punter Jim Walton also returning. Moorman was perfect (29 x 29) from the PAT line, and he also hit 12 of 20 field goals. Meanwhile, senior Walton averaged 43.2 with his 55 boots.

ARMY—The Cadets made some great strides in '76, moving back to respectability and a 5-6 mark, and there's even more optimism above the Hudson as Coach Homer Smith's agents approach the new season. The schedule might be tougher, but indeed so is the Long Grey Line.

Injuries and resignations hurt the Cadets early last fall, and Smith and his staff had to improvise greatly. It also meant that most of the squad were plebes and sophs. But that could have a very beneficial effect this fall, for think of the experience those young hands received. A total of 35 lettermen are now on the Plains, with only nine having departed.

In all, 17 starters return.

All-East quarterback Leamon Hall returns to again direct the offense. He's already fractured a slew of Army aerial records, and there's no telling how many of these the six-five Floridian with the buggy-whip arm will reset this fall. Last year, Hall hit on 162 of 344 passes for better than 2000 yards and 15 touchdowns, ranking among the Top Ten passers in the nation.

His favorite target again will be tight end Clennie Brundidge, who grabbed 47 passes for 657 yards last fall. Other receivers with experience are Greg McGlasker, George Dunaway, and Jim Merriken. Halfbacks Greg King and Jon Dwyer can go get the ball, too. Questionable is Don Briggs, the third best receiver, who left school, but may return.

Among Smith's top runners is King, a 2-year letterman, who has versatility. Tony Landry and Reggie Johnson display bursts of speed.

Up front, the Cadets need to find only one guard to mate with All-Eastern Curt Downs (6-4, 240). Tackles Kirk Thomas and Joe Oliver are ready to line up again as is center Chuck Johnston (6-4, 230). John Kisiel and Dan Sartin provide depth.

Defensively, nine starters, plus most of the reserves, are back. Ends Chuck Schott and Hal Burton plus tackles Chuck D'Amico and Duane Fuller are all back. D'Amico (6-4, 235), made six helpful sacks, better than 100 tackles. Schott led the team in sacks and had 101 tackles. Others figur-

LEAMON HALL, Army QB, hit on 162 passes, 2174 yards, 15 TDs last year. Entering his final season, Hall has broken or equaled 18 Army records.



CHUCK SCHOTT had 101 tackles last season for Cadets including nine sacks; a fumble recovery.



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JOHN PAGLIARO, Yale fullback, piled up more than 1000 yards in 1976.



KURT NONDORF earned All-Ivy honors at Yale as a soph defensive back.

However, this fall could be quite different for the late slate is lined with booby traps. Another fast finish would more than please Dick Bedesem.

IVY LEAGUE

YALE—The Elis, who tied for the Ivy crown with Brown last fall, are going back for the whole loaf this fall. Carm Cozza, who enjoyed the shortest retirement of a Yale football coach last winter when he stepped out for a few days then returned to the blackboard when he realized that he missed coaching too much, will have 12 starters returning among 34 monogram winners.

Among the returnees is 190-pound tailback John Pagliaro, New England's Player-of-the-Year. He motored for better than 1000 yards last fall, and is a legitimate All-America candidate. He'll have ample backfield help, with Capt. Bob Rizzo again directing the attack, and juniors John Hatem and Rick Angelone ready to run the football again, too. A pair up from the frosh—Mike Austin and Mike Sullivan—are well-regarded as is speedy Kenny Hill. Rizzo is a southpaw, who came off the bench to win two games, the first and last of Yale's 1976 eight victories, including THE game with Harvard.

The receiving should again be outstanding, led by circus-catcher John Spagnola and Bob Krystyniak, a pair of juniors. Speedster Arnie Pinkston and burly Mike Caldwell are solid sophs. All-Ivy guard

Steve Carfora and tackle Jim McDonnell will head up the blocking front. Jim Browning and Mike Litchman will battle for the center spot, while Brian McNamara should fill in at the vacant tackle spot. Juniors Dave Melina and Mark Noetzel will try for the right guard job.

One Achilles Heel could be the kicking game, for both Randy Carter and Mike Southworth have departed. Senior Bill Moore is the leading placekicking prospect, while Mike Sullivan, a soph, may do the punting.

Defensively, the middle front should be solid. Nose guard Keith Bassi and tackles Bob Skoronski and Paul Denza return. Mike Tomana will be at one end, while Dave Conrad, a hot soph, could work at end or tackle. Bill Crowley, the leading tackler last fall, should be better as a junior this year. Veterans Joe Zuraw and George Rapp plus sophs Tim Tumpane and Otha Porter will fight for the other spot.

The secondary looks solid. Kurt Nondorf was the only soph on the All-Ivy last fall and he'll head things up. The Monster will be either Kevin Gardner or John Nitti, while Charlie Weatherspoon, Doug Blagdon and Chip Kelly will fill out the picture.

Cozza felt that the '76 season was one of his most gratifying, and he's looking forward to another banner year, especially with so many experienced hands returning. The Elis seem to have plenty of stickouts, and no outstanding weaknesses. If Cozza can shore up the defense and have it resemble last year's starchy platoon (fifth nationally), Yale could capture Ivy honors all alone this season.

BROWN—For the first time in Ivy League history, Brown got a share of the title last fall, but heavy losses will hurt Coach John Anderson's chances of matching last year's effort.

The Bears' big battery—Paul Michalko to Bob Farnham—have graduated, though Bob's kid brother will be attempting to gain a receiver's spot. Split End Joe Mixie and flanker Charlie Watkins have All-Ivy potential, while junior passers Mark Whipple and Marty DeFrancesco seem to need only game experience to be on target.

The rushing game should be strong, for all three leading ball-carrier seniors—Wally Shields, Seth Morris and Co-Capt. Billy Hill—return. In addition, three bright-looking prospects are up from a fine frosh club, Jo Jo Jamiel, Marty Moran and Ed Ponko.

The offensive line ripples with talent and experience. Junior Mike Knight will move in at center, while Seniors Rich Riddle and Dave Field will man the guards. Steve Narr and Bob Forster return at tackle. Junior Chuck Bryson should be the tight end.

Defensively, the Bears lost five off the first unit, but Co-Capt and linebacker Lou Cole leads a platoon that houses muscle and experience. Halfbacks Luke Gaffney and Ron Brown are solid as are tackles Kevin Rooney and Kevin Webb plus nose guard Mike Lancaster. Mike Barnes, who started as a soph, returns after a year's absence.

The kicking game should be sound again with

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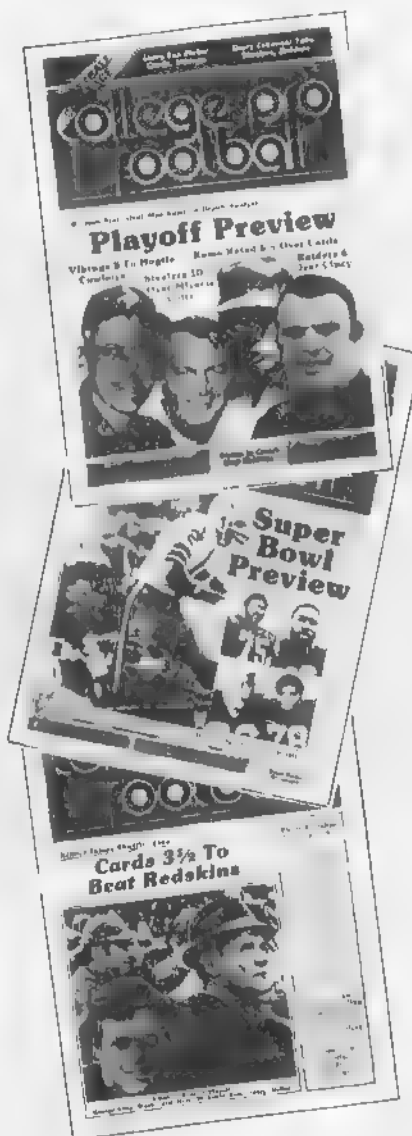
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is an excellent runner and a more than adequate passer. Uzelac clicked on 50 per cent of his tosses for the frosh last fall.

Dave Heverling, truly a gifted toe, owns the kicking game. He's the top place-kicker in Leopard history, booting seven fielders last year when only a soph.

LEHIGH—After a down, 6-5 campaign last fall, the Engineers are looking for more honors and a fifth consecutive winning season. John Whitehead starting his second year, realizes that injuries could be a problem, for depth is lacking.

Defensively, the front four return. Ends Glenn Skola and Greg Clark and tackles Tom Giordani and Eric Merrill should make it tough for the opposition. Dan McKinney supplies the big backup.

Starting linebackers Keith Frederick and Jim McCormick return as do deep backs Marc Borden, Carl Reese, Pete Fenton, Jeff Dunn and Steve Hefe. All lettered, with Borden topping the group with three thefts.

Quarterback Mike Rieker will again lead the Wing-T offense. He completed 140 of 260 passes for 1987 yards and 14 direct TD's last fall. Dave Aprill, Lennie Daniels, Vince Rogusky, Ed Barth and Mark Weaver look like the top runners. Aprill averaged 4.6 yards a crack.

Up front, the guards look solid, with Tom Stine, Matt Seasholtz, Brian Zwaan and Jim Schulze all lettering. Rick Adams and Scott McKay will divide time over the ball. Steve Kreider, who caught 20 passes, returns at the split end, while Andy Vandergrift will fill in at one tackle, with Dave Melone at the other. Terry Justice and Dave Rarig lead the tight end battle.

Some other faces who should be watched are fullback Mike Ford, split end Brian Lewis, defensive tackle Bob Brougher, and deep back Ken Colangelo. Ford is a 205-pounder who had a fine spring.

BUCKNELL—Injuries that came in bunches pinned the first losing campaign (4-5) on Bison coach Bob Curtis. He had predicted that a lack of depth would hurt, and unfortunately it did.

Curtis will go to the wing-T this fall. It looked good during the spring drills, with the veteran offensive line digging 'em out real good for the experienced running backs. The wing-T was installed to give the Bisons more consistency, cut the mistakes.

Quarterback could be a problem, for veteran Kerry Snow graduated. Rick Becker, up from the jayvees, soph Tim Dunn and Tom Smith are the leading candidates. Glyn Lipp, an outstanding scholastic QB who's been playing defense, could be a sleeper. Vince Woody heads up a fleet of well-regarded ball-toters. Others are Joel Boyd, break-away artist Mike Cosimano, sophs Al Simmons and Ray Washington. None are bigger than 180. Up front, Brian Shaffer, who caught 19 last year, will work at tight end along with Paul Sant'Ambrogio, moving over from defense. Pete Hall, with good hands will be at the split spot. Cal Lawrence is a soph burner. Three other starters—Marc Duda, Bill Clifford and Tom Hislop—return for more duty, though Tom

may move over from center to guard. New pivots could be Mike Miller and Jim Tomeo. A pair of Mikes—Dakan and McDonald—will battle it out for the vacant tackle spot.

The defense should be strong again if the young linebackers come through. Joe Kreider, Don Kelley and Mark Lynch, all sophs, will be given a chance to mesh with returnee John Cieslewicz. Len Bucher, a top soph last fall, returns at one corner. Bill Carpluk and Gerry Capone will fight it out for the other spot.

Charlie Hagan and Jeff Lilly head up an experienced deep backfield. Hagan begins his fourth campaign as a starter. Soph Bob Esernio will be given a good look, while Gary Vidmer, hurt last fall, could come along. The defensive front will be led by starting tackles Tom Krueger and Larry Johnson. Soph Bob Evans looks strong, too. Fourth-year starter Clyde Stroman and Brad Bennett should handle the flanks, while Tom Kadien, returning to the gridiron again, should lend depth.

The kicking game could be a problem, for both starters graduated. Tim Dunn, up from the JV's, could be the placekicker, while Glyn Lipp could handle the punting.

GETTYSBURG—Joe Sabol enters his third season with the Bullets moaning about a replacement for halfback Kirby Scott. However, a pair of quarterbacks—Bob LeComte and Mike Ryan—return to direct the attack. They'll also get help from a good-looking youngster, Mike Gee.

The running backs could be led by Jimmy Bixby, Eric Nelson and Chuck Warner. They should take off behind an improved offensive line, headed by center Jack Gonos, plus Jay Hordan, Steve Justice, John Cavolo, and John Martino. They're bigger and more experienced.

The kicking game looks strong, with placekicker Dick Eppelman ready to crack more marks.

The defensive front looks solid again, though the secondary might spring a leak or two. Jim Sperry and Dick Darian are he-men up front, while the ends are more than adequate. These number Kevin Mahoney, back after being out a year, Ken Kilkuskie and Hank Willard. The linebackers are quick, though lacking in weight. They're headed by such experienced troops as Chris Re, Keith Hallowell, Dave Shultz, Mark Wilson and Ken Wiblitzouser.

George Gabriel heads a pack of deep defenders that must improve. They were burned for 13 touchdowns, 1940 passing yards last fall.

YANKEE CONFERENCE

NEW HAMPSHIRE—The Wildcats have pretty much snuck up on their fellow Yankees each of the last two falls, and so there's no reason to feel that with 16 returning starters, Coach Bill Bowes' squad won't be able to get the job done again.

Heading up the returnees is Bill Burnham, a better-than-1100 yard rusher each of the last two years. He holds all of the UNH rushing marks already, but another banner season will put BB out of sight. Returning with him are such other all-conference backs as QB Jeff Allen and fullback Tim Pendry.

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Oct. 10 Dallas by 10 Final Score Dallas 24 N.Y. Giants . . . 14	Oct. 17 Minnesota by 4 Final Score Minnesota 14 Mich. St. 10	Oct. 23 49ers by 14 Final Score 49ers 15 Falcons 0	Oct. 23 Ohio State by 21 Final Score Ohio St. 24 Purdue 3	Oct. 24 Dallas by 10 Final Score Dallas 31 Chicago 21	Oct. 31 Illinois by 6 Final Score Illinois 31 Wisconsin 25
Nov. 6 Cal by 6 Final Score Cal 7 Wash 0	Nov. 7 Green Bay by 6 Final Score Packers 32 Saints 27	Nov. 13 Michigan by 31 Final Score Michigan 38 Illinois 7	Nov. 27 Rutgers by 8 Final Score Rutgers 17 Colgate 9	Nov. 27 Cincinnati by 14 Final Score Cincinnati 20 Louisville 6	Nov. 28 Chicago by 7 Final Score Chicago 16 Green Bay 10

Underdogs picked to win games outright.

Sept. 11 Wake Forest by 4 Final Score Wake Forest . . 20 N. Carolina St. . 18	Sept. 12 Oakland by 4 Final Score Oakland 31 Pitts. 28	Sept. 26 New Orleans by 3 Final Score Saints 27 Chiefs 17	Oct. 2 Georgia by 3 Final Score Georgia 21 Alabama 0
Oct. 3 New England by 3 Final Score New England . . 48 Oakland 13	Oct. 30 Clemson by 3 Final Score Clemson 15 Fla. St. 12	Oct. 31 Chi. Bears by 1 Final Score Bears 14 Vikings 13	
Nov. 13 Texas A&M by 6 Final Score Texas A&M 31 Arkansas 10	Nov. 13 Duke by 6 Final Score Duke 28 N. Carolina St. . 14	Dec. 11 Redskins by 4 Final Score Wash. 27 Dallas 14	

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1. East Stroudsburg
2. Millersville
3. Bloomsburg
4. Kutztown
5. Cheyney
6. Mansfield

Western Division

1. Shippensburg
2. Slippery Rock
3. Clarion
4. Edinboro
5. Indiana
6. Lock Haven
7. California

East Stroudsburg and Shippensburg played in a 14-14 tie for the championship last year.

Eastern Division

EAST STROUDSBURG—The Warriors haven't lost a football game in two years with 16 starters returning including triplets Jeff (OT), Joe (LB) and John (LB) Detzi should have another strong team. Mike Terwilliger (6-2, 200), who passed for 1185 yards last season, returns for his fourth year at quarterback. He is joined on offense by split end Tom Palubinski, fullback Harold Strunk and center Pat Flaherty. The top defensive players are All-Conference linebackers Jeff Johnson and Doug Rhoads.

MILLERSVILLE—The Marauders have their entire offensive backfield returning and are leading contenders for division honors. Quarterback Carmen Lex was the division leader in total offense a year ago with 1663 yards. Gordy Speicher (830 yards) and Terry Jones will handle the running game. The defense will be built around All-America cornerback Bob Parr (6-0, 190).

BLOOMSBURG—The Huskies boast an outstanding passing combination in quarterback Mike Canzler (1481 yards) and end Tom Brennan (28 catches, 544 yards). Linebacker Dough Pfautz (6-4, 225) and tackle Walt Savitts are top defensive players. The team could be a darkhorse to win the division title if Coach Ron Puhl can build a running game to take the pressure off Canzler.

KUTZTOWN—The Golden Bears lost their outside running threat as Bruce Harper, a two-time unanimous All-Conference choice, graduated, but they still have inside running power with fullback Bill Van Ness. The team's strong point should be its offensive line headed by guard Steve Head and tackle Joe Lentz. Backs Andy Lutkieicz and Jim Nickson are the key players on defense.

CHEYNEY—The Wolves have to replace leading ground gainer Abel Joe, quarterback Allen Hurst and defensive back Reggie Beard in what shapes up as a rebuilding year. Halfback Aaron Mitchem figures to be the top offensive threat. The defense should be solid with tackle Wilson Lambert (6-0, 240) and end Tom Inge the leaders.

MANSFIELD—The Mounties may go to the air more often this season with the presence of promising quarterback Rob Sollberger and ends Stacey Woodyard and Larry Fountain. There is a veteran offensive line featuring tackle Jim Boyd. Top defensive

players are linebacker Bill Forsythe and halfback Earl Bundy.

Western Division

SHIPPENSBURG—The Red Raiders boast one of the premier backs in the East in Fred Glasgow (6-0, 215) a transfer from Syracuse who gained 990 yards last season. The team is loaded at quarterback with Scott Knudson, Bob Nelson and Dan Baumann all experienced. There are eight starters back on defense including standout middle guard Ray Gouker (5-9, 185). All-Conference safety Scott Orndoff and Jerome Kater (30 yards per kickoff return) are top defensive backs.

SLIPPERY ROCK—All-America tight end Bob Schrantz (6-4, 210) is one of only three offensive regulars back and the Rock must come up with a quarterback. Dragonfly Doug Young (5-7, 155), who rushed for a school record 292 yards in a season-ending game, hopes to pick up where he left off. The defensive picture is brighter with middle guard Richard Lee, linebacker Sam DeBona and cornerback Brad Burton among six starters returning.

CLARION—The Golden Eagles should provide Coach Al Jacks with his 13th consecutive winning season. The key player is halfback Jay Dellostretto, an All-Conference defensive back in 1975 and wide receiver last season who is being moved into the offensive backfield. Eight freshmen started last year on a 7-3 team so the outlook is optimistic.

EDINBORO—With the offense severely hit by graduation, defense will be the cry for the Fighting Scots. Linebackers Jim Krentz (6-2, 225) and Greg Sullivan and middle guard Ron Gooden (6-3, 260) are all solid defensive performers. The offensive load will be handled by quarterback Mike Hill and running back Jeff Delbene.

INDIANA—All-America first team defensive end Jim Haslett (6-4, 230) only can play one position at a time so coach Bill Neal must come up with more players like Haslett if the Indians are to be title contenders. Eight other defensive regulars will be reuniting with Haslett including linebacker Gregg Schmidt. Improvement will be needed on offense.

LOCK HAVEN—A 2-8 record can be deceiving especially since the Bald Eagles lost to division co-champions Shippensburg and Slippery Rock and leading contender Clarion by a total of 13 points last year. Powerful tailback Charles Lucas returns to head the team's offensive attack while a tough defense will feature linebackers Len Rucci and Joe Williams.

CALIFORNIA—There are all types of changes at California. There is a new coach in Hal Hunter, former assistant at Indiana of the Big 10; a ten-game schedule, first in recent history; and the move to change the school's nickname from the Vulcans. What are needed are players. Quarterback Rich Groves, running back Chuck Harper and linebacker Aldo Filoni are the best returning.

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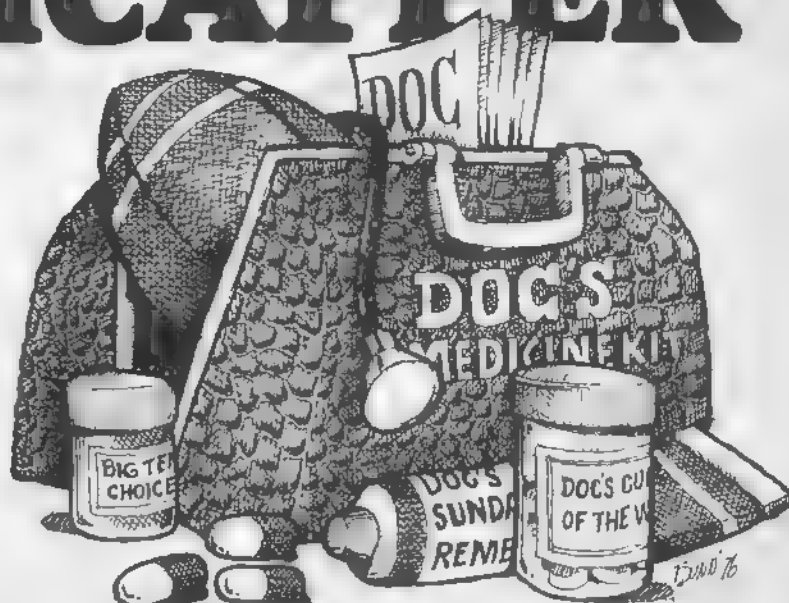
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1976 Results 8-3 — 73%

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1976 Results 9-2 — 82%

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1976 Results 8-5 — 61%

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Deep South

MISSISSIPPI STATE HAS THE POWER TO SNARE SEC CROWN AFTER 35-YEAR DROUGHT

PREDICTIONS

Southeastern Conference

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mississippi State | 6. Louisiana State |
| 2. Alabama | 7. Tennessee |
| 3. Kentucky | 8. Mississippi |
| 4. Georgia | 9. Auburn |
| 5. Florida | 10. Vanderbilt |

Independents

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Georgia Tech | 5. Miami |
| 2. Florida State | 6. Louisville |
| 3. Tulane | 7. Southern Mississippi |
| 4. Memphis State | |

Gulf South Conference

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. U. Tenn.-Martin | 6. Nicholls State |
| 2. Troy State | 7. North Alabama |
| 3. Jacksonville State | 8. Livingston |
| 4. Delta State | 9. Mississippi College |
| 5. Southeast Louisiana | |

Georgia broke Alabama's stranglehold on football titles in the Southeastern Conference a year ago. The Bulldogs cannot maintain that high level of performance this fall, but Mississippi State can.

Coach Bob Tyler has his Bulldogs, not to be confused with the Georgia Bulldogs, all set for a run at the championship. For the first time in many years Mississippi State has the balance and the incentive to win. Tyler's team is coming off a brilliant 9-2-0 season, but it's more pertinent to point out that these Bulldogs get out of the NCAA jailhouse in September, which means they will be eligible to win the SEC title, appear on television and go to a bowl game.

Miss. State's last SEC title came in 1941, a team coached by Allyn McKeen that was broken up by World War II. In the 36 intervening years State has had few serious contenders, but Tyler changed all that when he took the reins four years ago. Football has improved steadily under the studious and silent Tyler who never played college football himself.

Among the South's independents Georgia Tech is in position to rule. Coach Pepper Rodgers expects to have the balance his recent teams have lacked. But Rodgers will have to improve to stay ahead of the young coaches who have been hired by other independents. Bobby Bowden's first year at Florida State was a promise of better days to come. FSU will go back to the passing days of Bill Peterson.

Larry Smith exudes confidence down at Tulane where he took the job a year ago. Richard Williamson, at Memphis State, also in his second year, has a team that figures to be much better. Lou Saban, a veteran coach who has worked at all levels, is the new man at Miami and, as usual, the schedule is a backbreaker. The sleeper among all those independents is Louisville where Vince Gibson has a chance to win eight or nine games.

Back in the SEC, Kentucky has moved up to big league status. The Wildcats, being on NCAA probation, cannot be recognized as league champ even if they won 'em all, nor can they make it to a bowl game. But Fran Curci's pulverizing ground game and sturdy defense points to another fine season.

And then there's Alabama, as always. After winning five SEC championships in a row, the Tide stumbled on Georgia and Ole Miss and had to settle for the runnerup spot. Bear Bryant has the talent to regain the crown. But the early tests against Nebraska, Georgia, Ole Miss and Southern California may be a mite more than he can handle. Bear now has moved well ahead of all SEC coaches in total victories. He has won 126 league games in 27 seasons, eight at Kentucky, 19 at his alma mater.

Georgia has the defense to qualify as an outside contender. Florida has a good chance, too, if the Gators can find a way to whip Georgia, the stumbling block the past three years. LSU will be much improved as Charley McClendon fights the good fight to save his job.

Tennessee hired John Majors, Vol All-America halfback in 1956, to succeed Bill Battle. John is the only new head coach in the league. Majors revived football fortunes dramatically at Pittsburgh in four years. The assignment is to do the same for Tennessee where the fan support is automatic. Tennessee was third in the nation in attendance a year ago and every 1977 game is a virtual sellout in an arena that seats 81,000.

The Vols cannot be considered a title contender, nor can Ole Miss, Auburn or Vanderbilt. But all schools down South hope to be good enough to get a bowl bid. Last year four qualified: Georgia lost to Pitt in the Sugar Bowl, Alabama defeated UCLA in the Liberty, Kentucky crushed North Carolina in the Peach and Texas Aggies annihilated Florida in the Sun Bowl.

The South's All-America challenge is led by Larry Gillard of Mississippi State, Mike Siganos of Kentucky, Wes Chandler of Florida, Ben Zambiasi of

ALABAMA—If Alabama recovers its alleged birth-right (the Southeastern Conference championship was thought to be Tide property), it will be a tribute to Johnny Davis and Tony Nathan and a marvelous reconstruction job in the defensive front.

Depth at running back is not so obvious this season, which means Davis and Nathan may get the ball enough to be factors in national statistical races.

There are five new shining faces in the defensive line. Well, Terry Jones (250) isn't new but he has switched sides from offensive center to middle guard. A pair of young giants without letters, Marty Lyons (250) and William Davis (260) are the tackles. Calvin Parker (235) and John Knox (205) won or inherited starting end assignments. Davis wasn't on the depth chart for Alabama's Liberty Bowl romp over UCLA last December.

The Tide defense, despite the patch job, still appears red, not green. Linebacker Barry Krauss (235) returns and the secondary is all set, just as it was on the 9-3 team last season . . . halfbacks Phil Allman (185) and Mike Tucker (172), free safety Mike Kramer (185) and strong safety Murray Legg (188). Alabama permitted only 1075 yards in air gains and 45 per cent completions.

Kramer is considered the secondary star, an all-SEC type. Ricky Gilliland (220) has advanced to be the other starting linebacker. In reserve are Rich Wingo (230) and Dewey Mitchell (230), part-time starter. Danny Collins and Wayne Hamilton (228) are capable ends, Larry Kennedy (250) and Curtis McGriff (265) support at tackle and Gary DeNiro backs Jones at middle guard.

The Jones move is a daring experiment. Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant regarded Terry as the best snapper in the league. To move a winning center focuses on the need for leadership in the defensive line.

Defensive backs who can help are Ron Simmons, Don McNeal, Bob Smith.

Alabama offense returns 3440 yards, including one-two quarterbacks Jeff Rutledge (6-2, 200) and Jack O'Rear (190) and a great end, Ozzie Newsome.

Rutledge is an accomplished passer (57 per cent, almost 1000 yards, eight TDs), O'Rear the better runner (467 yards, six scores). Newsome caught 25 passes for 529 and six touchdowns, says he is not disturbed that Alabama so seldom throws the ball, that he understood the wishbone concept when he joined Bryant four years ago.

Lou Ikner (176) joins the bulldozing Davis and multi-talented Nathan in the starting backfield. John Crow, Steve Whitman and Joe Jones will have a turn.

Guard Louis Green (256), tackle Jim Bunch (233) and tight end Rick Neal (209) have veteran status in the offensive line. Tackle Chip Tillman (245), guard Bob Cryder (270) and center Dwight Stephenson (224), former reserves, are now regulars.

Keith Pugh backs Newsome at split end. Sam Maddox (215) reenforces tight end. Mike Brock and Tim Hurst (260) are tackle depth. Vince Boothe and David Sadler (235), former noseman, are sub offensive guards. Tom Hufstetler (220) supports at center.

New in the kicking game are punter Woody Umphrey and place-kicker Alan McElroy.

Nathan may be the top Tide attraction. He was MVP in the spring game with a 56-yard punt return for a touchdown and a 51-yarder to set up another score.

Last fall, as a sophomore, Tony gained 480 yards on 75 carries (6.4 average), scored seven touchdowns as a runner and got another on a pass.

Bryant one day tags the Tide as awfully big and slow.

"It's probably the biggest and slowest squad we've had in a long time," says the coach.

Another day Bear says, "This is a terrific bunch of young men. It is a pleasure to work with them."

What has he said about this season? Neither sentence tells you much. That's the way Bryant plans it.

"If we're going to have a representative team, we better have some pleasant surprises in the early fall," says the coach. "We still have a weakness in the defensive line. The lack of speed really shows in the secondary."

"If we have a strength, it's down the middle . . . the quarterbacks and fullback Johnny Davis. We have strength in numbers of offensive linemen, quantity, not quality."

After five consecutive SEC championships, Bryant lost the '76 flag in a shocking season-opening upset by Ole Miss and a 21-0 thumping at Georgia. This fall, the schedule has two new pitfalls, trips to Nebraska and Southern Cal between conference games. It could be Coach Bryant wasn't looking when Athletic Director Bryant signed those contracts.

KENTUCKY—Old dressing room motto: "If better is possible, good is not enough."

This is the autumn of decision for the Kentucky Wildcats. They were good last year. Is better possible? Can the Big Blue stop running for respectability and try to take the championship of the Southeastern Conference?

Fran Curci has the nuts and bolts and washers of an outstanding team. He is building on an 8-4 record, the school's best since 1951 when Paul (Bear) Bryant took the Wildcats to the Cotton Bowl. Curci only made it to the Peach Bowl but he enjoyed a 21-0 knockout of North Carolina.

Ten defensive starters are still around. Five offensive regulars, including quarterback Derrick Ramsey (6-5, 222), are available.

"With our defense returning almost intact, we feel pretty secure in that area," says the coach. "We are concerned about depth at quarterback, inexperience in the offensive line and what's happening at tight end."

"We should be stronger overall but it will be a challenge to equal that 8-4 record. There are many fine teams on our schedule just waiting for us."

Ramsey may scare some away. The giant quarterback with the tight-end look is the ranking returnee in SEC total offense. Derrick rushed for 771 yards and completed half his passes for 659 more. He was responsible for 17 touchdowns.

Opposing players say Ramsey is faster than he

Sharing the football with McLee will be tailbacks Willie McClendon (194) and Howard Wise (177), fullback Hilton Young (177) and perhaps Sam Fife or Larry Raysor. Flankers are James Moreen (175) and Carmon Prince (193). Split ends are Jesse Murray (183) and Mike Wilcox (177).

The real question is at quarterback. Gone are old-timers Ray Goff (SEC player-of-the-year in '76) and Matt Robinson. In their place is a tournament . . . Tony Flanagan of basketball fame, Jeff Pyburn and Steve Rogers. Tony is the better passer, Jeff the more talented runner, Steve the best mix. Dooley will likely settle the dilemma sometime before the Sept. 10 kickoff against Oregon. He'll have one for sure by the time Georgia gets the ball.

The coach lost a cannon in placekicker Allan Leavitt (scoring leader with 70 points). Cary Long has this crucial assignment.

Dooley says the quarterback situation is no great concern to him.

"It's much as it was three years ago when we had Dicky Clark, Goff and Robinson," said the coach. "Competition at quarterback was good all spring. It won't be an easy problem to decide who'll play but it is a nice problem. We feel the present group has more athletic ability than the trio of three years ago. Of course we don't know whether they'll develop as well."

McLee has a shot at national honors. He was the team's top back as a sophomore, pounding out 806 yards and 60 points. His junior showing was even better and now Kevin needs only 306 yards to break Sinkwich's long-standing school career record.

McClendon broke out of the pack to win the other starting job in the backfield but Dooley says he is worried about the drop off in quality after those two.

"I hope we'll be able to preserve the defensive spirit of last year's Junkyard Dogs," said the coach. "That won't be easy. There'll be sophomore mistakes on offense we didn't have to contend with a year ago. We probably won't enjoy as much favorable field position as we had with the good ball-control offense. I'm concerned about Swoopes' knee surgery and how quickly he'll be full speed."

If all that isn't enough to worry about, Dooley can look to November and the three closing games . . . Florida, Auburn and Georgia Tech.

FLORIDA—At most football schools, the loss of a No. 1 quarterback would cause the coach to pound the panic button.

Florida's anticipated QB, Billy Kynes, had to make a hasty decision . . . accept a Rhodes Scholarship or continue on the gridiron. He's going to Oxford.

Coach Doug Dickey had quick but not-so-experienced Terry LeCount (168) waiting in the wings and in a Houdini-type move, switched right halfback Tony Green (180) to help the stripped position.

Green was a high school quarterback who needs less than 300 yards to be the Gators' all-time rushing leader. Tony will continue as a running back, working regularly, but the coach and his staff can sleep late at night knowing Green is available to run the attack, if needed.

"I'll tell you what I saw in spring practice," said Jimmy Dunn, offensive coordinator. "Tony took to quarterback as if he had been playing it his entire career. He is so quick, it is difficult for linemen to contain him and he threw the football extremely well."

LeCount and Green are the spotlight attractions in a backfield that includes rapid Willie Wilder (195) and Earl Carr (218 wishbone fullback). Sophomores Bo Smith (188), Tony Waters (169) and Joe Portale (222) are a promising second unit.

Wes Chandler (194) is the Gators' really big show, as Ed Sullivan used to say. This senior split end caught 44 passes last season and stretched them into 967 yards and 10 touchdowns. No receiver in America scored more and the 22 yards-per-catch led the Southeastern Conference.

Besides being the No. 1 wideout, Chandler is a thrilling punt returner. Dickey regards Wes as Heisman Trophy material.

Florida's offensive line is not so good. David Forrester (240) is the lone returning regular. New associates are Bill Bennek (230), Mark Totten (6-6, 283), Steve Kiefer (266), Dennis Forrester (238) and Don Swafford (240), tight end.

In reserve are Ed Jacobsen, Mark Midden, Doug Schroeder, Alex Hewko, Mike Guido and Lewis Gilbert. Derrick Gaffney plays behind Chandler.

Three outstanding linebackers, led by sophomore Scot Brantley (228), anchor a veteran defense. Dickey grumbled last fall about too many yielded yards but now enjoys the advantage of 1976 youth. Nine starters returned but some can't keep their positions.

Backing the line with Brantley are Scott Hutchinson (244) and Charlie Williams (237). Michael DuPree (229) and Richard Ruth (224) protect the flanks. Melvin Flournoy (228) and Sylvester King (241) are tackles.

Sophomore Skipper Peek (174) invaded what could have been a secondary of seniors. Junior Chuck Hatch (184) took another job. Nobody messes with Henry Davis (195) and David Wright (185).

Four seniors are in the second defensive backfield . . . Tim Aydt, Warren Gaffney, Alvin Parrish and Charlie Skalaski. Another oldtimer, Jeff Kanter, is available at linebacker. Freshman Dock Luckie (6-3, 230) and sophomore Jimmy Kreis are projected as other linebackers.

Three sophomores, Ron Coleman, David Mabardy and Dozyier Hinton, and junior John Spinks back up the front four.

Alan Williams is again the Florida punter and Berj Yepremian, younger brother of the Miami Dolphin kicker, is in charge of placements.

The Gators were in the lead for the league championship until the Georgia game last season. They'll see the Bulldogs again on Nov. 5.

The Gators might get the Bulldogs this time if the new quarterbacks can get the ball to Chandler enough. LeCount, three years ago, was the No. 1 player in Florida prep ranks and because of his great speed, was tabbed as a collegiate star-to-be.

Terry didn't get to play as a freshman. The next year, because the Gators had veteran quarterbacks,



CRAIG PUKI, left, heads Tennessee linebackers while BOBBY EMMONS, 224 pounds, is powerful running back.

TENNESSEE—John Majors, Tennessee tailback, class of '56, accepted the task of Volunteer reconstruction as fans across the state sang in unison, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

The multitudes stood and cheered. A favorite son was finally theirs, national coach-of-the-year, the national championship coach at Pitt was going to put the Big Orange back in the big time.

Majors did a little tip-toeing when he arrived in Knoxville. He was looking all around, trying to spot a couple or three players. Maybe he'd see them at spring practice.

"I'm going to tell you the truth, the well has run dry," said Majors when he finally surveyed his inheritance. "When I first looked, it was confusing, then frustrating. Now, it's frightening!"

Tennessee was 6-5 last season, 2-4 in the Southeastern Conference, tied for seventh or ninth, depending upon how you look at the standings.

"The way I read it, we finished ahead of Vanderbilt," says the new coach.

The Vols ranked seventh in total offense, eighth in defense . . . but here's the catch: The best players are gone, Stanley Morgan, Larry Seivers, Andy Spiva, most of the offensive line.

Tennessee fans are notoriously understanding. Don't worry, Coach, everything will be OK in a year or two.

"A year or two, hell," exclaims Majors. "I don't know how long it'll take."

Tennessee's defense has possibilities. The format has been changed to a five-man front with a monster. That's Russ Williams (202), multitalented junior who played linebacker as a freshman and strong safety last season.

The linebackers are hitters, Craig Puki (215), Lionel Stewart (207) and returning standout Greg Jones (216). They'll share two jobs.

Roland James (183) is a prize prospect at free safety or corner. He's a sophomore who started several games as a freshman.

Cornerbacks are not so secure, Thomas Rowsey (193) and Chip Linebarier (190) as probable start-

ers, Danny Martin and Martin Murriel in reserve. Eddy Powers and Stan Grant support at safety and monster. Jim Sheffer can help, could start.

Up front, the Vols have a winner in end-outside linebacker David Barron (212). Quick Dennis Wolfe (190) plays the other side. Tackles are returning veteran Pert Jenkins (220) and big-potential Glenn Tucker (250), troubled all spring with a shoulder injury. The middle guard is colorful Jim Noonan (220), built like a bowling ball and anxious to roll all over rival backfields.

Other ends are Steve Davis (225) and Tony West (218), tackles are big Jesse Turnbow (265) and Ray Hawkins, a 6-2, 230-pound sophomore. Rick Powers (212) is the next best linebacker.

Tennessee's offense is more unsettled. Where Majors at Pitt had a powerful machine with the sensational Tony Dorsett as a mainspring, Johnny with the Vols has pieces of a puzzle.

"Our linemen just aren't very strong," declares the coach. "I couldn't tell what I wanted to know about the quarterbacks in spring practice because we couldn't keep the defense off the quarterbacks. They had to play too much with somebody around their necks."

The quarterbacks are inexperienced senior Pat Ryan (207), inexperienced junior Joe Hough (191) and talented freshmen Jimmy Streater and Wilbert Jones, even less experienced. To make matters worse, says Majors, the rookies were hurt half the time.

Best running backs are Kelsey Finch (207), Frank Foxx (192), Bobby Emmons (224), Gary Moore (188) and Nate Sumpter (194). Finch gained 306 yards before bowing out last fall with an injury. Foxx had one outstanding Saturday, netted 371 for the year. Emmons averaged more than six per carry, gained 462.

Hough played the most among the QB's, threw for 204 yards and ran for 37 more.

Jeff Moore (195) has replaced All-America Larry Seivers at split end. Moore was a defensive back last year. Billy Arbo (197) has inherited first-round draft choice Stanley Morgan's wingback role. Next best receivers are Robert Malone, Marcus Starling and Ken Sanderson.

Tight end John Murphy (223), tackle Brent Watson (250) and center Robert Shaw (233) are returning regulars. Chris Webster (220) and Steve Porter (242) or Charlton Webb (235) are the best bets at guard. Webster is a fifth-year player who has never dressed out for a Tennessee game. Scott Farrar (230) may start at tackle.

Line depth must come from Jim Duvall (224), Tim Irwin (6-7, 240), Phil Sutton, Alan Lynn and Bill Marren.

Tennessee's kicking game has a chance. Craig Colquitt averaged 42.3 last season, best in the SEC.

"I don't know what will happen but I feel certain we'll be outmanned physically in several games," says Majors. "I spent the spring telling the team we'll have to fight and scratch for everything we get, that we'd better get tough mentally because it's too late for us to build big muscles."



WILLIAM ANDREWS, left, fullback, and REESE MC CALL, 6-7 tight end, hope to avoid injuries at Auburn in 1977.

reserve among defensive backs. Sophomores Matt Phillips, Willie Burns and Dan Caccamo are supposed to be ready in case of emergency.

The Rebs have a sound kicking game, featuring barefooted punter Jim Miller (40 plus average) and place-kicker Hoppy Langley, top scorer last season with 13 extra points and nine fielders in 14 tries.

AUBURN—No looking back, says Auburn Coach Doug Barfield. Last year was a learning experience. The Tigers will not dwell on it.

"Last year," Barfield's first as the replacement of Ralph (Shug) Jordan, was a 3-8 disaster. Injuries were awful. Auburn never started the same backfield twice.

"We walked away from last season determined to rekindle a winning attitude," says the coach. "We will not look back."

For the record, Barfield has fudged a little. He says two or three less fumbles and a couple more catches would have made it a different deal.

"There's a real fine line between 8-3 and 3-8."

Leading the charge forward are senior tight end Reese McCall (223) and fullback William Andrews (196). Barfield says McCall is the best blocker on the squad.

"He has the size (6-7) and speed to be the best tight end in Auburn history," says the coach.

Reese caught nine passes a year ago in his semi-season. He was among the wounded, missing the last four games with a shoulder injury.

Andrews, an all-the-way threat with the ball, was not an all-the-way fullback. He survived only four games (shoulder) but still ranked fourth among Tiger rushers. Willie riddled Memphis State with 143 yards on 20 tries. Barfield wants more and better.

The Tigers still claim the veer as their basic offense but it has to look different without quarterback Phil Gargis, departed three-year starter. Gargis ranks second behind Heisman hero Pat Sullivan in career total offense but the team won only six in Phil's last two seasons so the switch to John Crane

(196) did not cause an earthquake.

Crane has almost no statistical background. He was a high school All-America at Stuart, Fla., has a strong arm, once won an Orange and Blue game at Auburn with a last-two-minutes comeback. For the varsity, John ran once and lost five yards and was 0-for-3 as a passer his sophomore season. Last year he hit five of 15 throws and finished minus 19 as a runner.

"Maybe we should have played him more along the way," says Barfield, sneaking one more little look over his shoulder.

Rounding out the No. 1 backfield are Joe Cribbs (185) at tailback and Ray Powell (186) as flanker. Joe gained 172 as a rookie runner and was an instant hit as a kick returner. Powell has 12 receptions of experience.

Split end Terry Fuller has gone to defense, leaving that job to Jim Patton (175) and Mark Robbins (177).

Lynn Johnson (264) should lead the offensive line. He missed 1976 with an injury but was a starter in three previous campaigns. Marvin Trott (233) has reclaimed his center position after spending half of last year in the training room. Jim Skuthan (249) and George Stephenson (235) have emerged as guards. Mike Burrow (262) is the tackle opposite Johnson.

In the second line are David Marshall (225), Rick Chenault (225), Mark Clement (218), Mark Callahan (226), Mike Shelton (245) and Dick Hayley (206), son of Athletic Director Lee Hayley.

Nimble sophomore Charlie Trotman (173) quarterbacks a second backfield of John Sistrunk (196), Foster Christy (198) and Mike Dennis (179). Dal Shealy is the new offensive coordinator.

Injury frustrations were not limited to offense at Auburn. Eight different Tigers saw action at middle guard. Harris Rabren (229) wasn't one of the eight but he won the role in spring practice after moving from offensive guard.

The big name on defense is linebacker Freddie Smith (207), a sprinter who arrives quickly and in a bad humor. As a freshman, Freddie led the Tigers in tackles and was national lineman of the week once. He's a sophomore.

Veterans Rodney Bellamy (262) and John Smith (249) are the tackles in a five-man front. Tommy Hicks (220) and Mike Locklear (211) are the ends. Hicks is a converted linebacker, Locklear, sophomore, came to Auburn as a running back.

Mike McQuaig (228), considered the best linebacker in town before he was felled by a pre-season injury a year ago, is ready again. Kim Sellers (229), former starter, and Ken Hardy (218), strong sophomore, are second linebackers.

Ends Joe Shaw (201) and Bob Rhodes (214), tackles Ricky Allen (220) and Anthony Jones (267), another former regular, and noseman Tim Stowers (222) give the Tigers a capable No. 2 defensive front.

Three returnees, Rick Freeman (189), James McKinney (189) and Jeff Gray (177) are in the secondary, along with soph Charles Wood (187). Fuller (175), Mickey Jones (176), Jep Castleberry (185)

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Corners are Donald Patterson (183) and Ken Taylor (198). The strong safety is solid James Marble (185). In reserve are Tom Cooksey, Bobbie Barkley, Steve Ellis and Brad Roper.

Pepper says he is counting on inexperienced players producing when he projects overall improvement for Tech. The team went from awful to outstanding last fall. The Ramblin' Wreck lost to Tennessee, 42-7, but knocked out Notre Dame and put great fear in Georgia, SEC champ.

The schedule is moderate but the squad is young ... only 13 seniors.

FLORIDA STATE—There's going to be excitement in opposing secondaries when Florida State comes out to play.

The Seminoles of Bobby Bowden have a quick quarterback with a major-league passing arm in Jimmy Jordan (180), home-grown in Tallahassee and sold on the idea of lifting FSU out of the ordinary class.

Few Bowden-coached teams have been ordinary. Florida State won five and lost six last season but that was miraculous improvement over recent campaigns (before Bowden) of lumps and bruises and 0-11 records.

Jordan zinged the football for close to 4000 yards as a prep senior and developed smartly as a college freshman, playing behind Jimmy Black. The job is now Jordan's. Black is gone.

Still in pads are outstanding receivers Mike Shumann (170) and Kurt Unglaub (175). Shumann survived a year of inactivity and some heavy personal problems to rejoin the team. Mike was among the better receivers in the South in 1974-75.

Tailback Larry Key (190) is the main event in the running attack. Already Key has locked up the Florida State career rushing record with this year to be added. Large Mark Lyles (6-4, 232) returns at fullback. Behind them are Chip Sanders (195), Ernie Washington (210) and Greg Ramsey (172). Wally Woodham backs up Jordan. Mike Barnes and Jackie Flowers are capable wide receivers.

Tackle Tom Rushing (265) leads the Seminole offensive line. Mike Good (235) returns at the other tackle. Bruce Harrison, after a year off for knee repairs, has reclaimed a guard position. Harrison weighs 240 and is crusty.

Wade Johnson (222) is the other guard, Cedric Wyatt (235) the center. In reserve are tackles Greg Futch (245) and Brent Brock (235), guards Mark Meseroll (270) and Nat Henderson (243) and center Gil Wesley (223). Greg Lazzaro (220) starts at tight end, ahead of Grady King (210).

Florida State's defense didn't do much bragging last season but it may be considerably improved. Junior Willie Jones (240) is cranked up for his third starting campaign at end. He's a big-play hitter. Gary Rose (245) returns at one tackle.

Aaron Carter, just 190, is an outstanding linebacker, quick to the scene and conclusive in his actions. Bobby Jackson (180), Mike Kincaid (175) and Nat Terry (170) return in the secondary. New in the backfield but far from bad is Ivory Joe Hunter (185).

Former middle guard Jimmy Higgins (205) is a starting linebacker. Fred Igaz (215) is now the nose-man. Paul Philippy (235) has won a tackle assignment. Scott Warren (215) is the other end.

Line depth includes end Ken McCranie, 225-pound freshman who arranged early graduation so he could participate in spring practice. Another end is Ed Richardson (205). Brother Louie Richardson (235) is a tackle, along with Jeremy Mindlin (240). Abe Smith (235) backs Igaz at middle guard.

Art Scott (215) and David Hanks (215) are linebackers. The second-best secondary features Hector Gray (195), Sterling Watson (175), Vic Fowler (190) and Pat Tedesco (181).

Bill Duley is the punter, Dave Cappelen the place-kicker.

"Better days are ahead," says Coach Bowden. "I've seen attitudes improving. We are more aggressive than we were. Florida State still needs size and speed but we are changing over to a winning commitment.

"We started seven freshmen last season so we are still a relatively young team. I'm encouraged. We're going to get better."

TULANE—A sophomore kicker, a sophomore coach and 16 returning starters give Tulane hope for better things in a hurry.

The Green Wave was 2-9 last season but it wasn't

ERIC LAAKSO, 6-6, hurls 270 pounds of power at the enemy for Green Wave.

BILL KRAMER, Tulane's top offensive performer, is set for big year this season.



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State?). Calvin is a real winner."

Poole, weightlifter in his spare time, gained 502 yards as a sophomore. Miller caught 52 passes in three previous campaigns.

Autry, transfer from Tennessee, switched from middle guard on defense to trail-blazer for the attack. Gibson calls Keith "a big-time offensive guard." James Brown (273) and Rick Cruz (287) are starting tackles. Ron Heinrich (247) is the center. Matt Cumberworth (243) or Jeff Cully (230) is the other guard.

Marc Mitchell (221) is tight end. Tony Smith (230), Mark Besanceney (246) and Ebb Williams (209) will share split end.

Quarterback is a question. Stu Stram (Hank's son) started most games last fall but had trouble fighting off Randy Butler and Jim Didier in the spring.

"Right this minute, I don't believe we have a No. 1 quarterback," says Gibson.

Louisville gave up 1100 yards more than it gained last fall and the Cardinals think that little problem has been corrected. Tackles Mark Pongonis (249) and Tom Abood (226) and a pair of slashing linebackers, Ricky Skiles (211) and Otis Wilson (223), lead the blockade. Gibson had Frank Emanuel and Tom Fisher together at Tennessee but now says his current linebackers are the best physically he's ever coached.

Jim Embry, switched from linebacker to defensive end, Willie McBirth (221) and Nick Gagel (226) protect the flanks. Defensive backs are Danny Simpson (174), David Bradshaw (186), Bobby Norris (190) and Dwayne Woodruff (195).

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI—"Better than last year" is the battle cry at Southern Mississippi. For that matter, Coach Bobby Collins still thinks his Eagles were better than their 2-9 record a year ago.

Returning to lead the attack is Ben (Go-Go) Garry, swift, sturdy tailback who averaged more than five yards per carry and piled up 1236 yards. If Go-Go gets a choice, he'll follow Eric Smith (6-5, 278) and Amos Fowler (6-3, 250) through the right side of the line.

There's still a debate at quarterback. Collins can choose Kenny Alderman, starter in nine games, or Jeff Hammond, field leader in the two victories at the end of last season. Veteran wideouts John Cannon and Chuck Brown also return. Tight end John Pitts (208) and fullback David Hosemann (187) are other returning regulars.

Southern's offense includes center Bill Warner (227), guard Terry Brown (240) and tackle Randy Butler (242). Sophomores Raymond Beal and Willie Corner (6-1, 226) will be strong backfield additions.

End Bobby Smithart (6-4, 242) and tackle Stoney Parker (245) lead a restructured defense. The Eagles have two new starters in the secondary but lettermen at other positions.

Completing the front five are noseguard Thad Dillard (230), tackle Alan McCollough (250) and end Reggie Odom (218). Tackle J. J. Stewart can help.

Four linebackers shared starting assignments last fall and all four return . . . first-teamers Freeman



ERIC SMITH, left, paves the way for BEN GARRY, who gained 1236 yards for Southern Mississippi in 1976.

Horton (210) and Ron Taylor (226) and almost-first-teamers Clemon Ector and Ricky Allen.

Former safety Terry Daniels (182) has been switched to corner. Emanuel Killingsworth (183) starts on the other side. Randy McDonald (188) is the new safety. Mike Crenshaw (188) returns at vandal, or monster. Wade Lynch is the lone secondary reserve with experience.

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA—Former Heisman Trophy winner and pro star John David Crow enters his second season. Crow has 18 starters back from a 2-9 club.

The Indians have quarterback Mike Howell back after a fine freshman season in which he ranked No. 10 nationally in total offense, completing 81 passes for 1511 yards and 10 touchdowns and 334 yards and three more scores on the ground for a total of 1845 yards.

Howell has two home run receivers to throw to in all-South Independent split end John Floyd who was fourth in the nation in average gain with 21.9 yards and flanker David Dumars, a speedster, ineligible last year.

Tailback Neal Charles, fullbacks Greg Schaff and Vernon Mills, also report.

Up front, there are a pair of veteran guards, Dub Hatten (230) and Plez Jenkins (239). Top candidates at tackle are Jimmie Adams and David Nolte. Chris Goggan and Mike Needleman are prospects at center.

Defense was a weak point last year and Crow made several changes. John Fleming moved from offensive guard to nose guard, Harold Thompson from defensive end to linebacker and Major Haynes from strong safety to end.

Jeff Walker returns at one end and converted running back Danny Pringle is another candidate along with Trimble. Top tackles are Warren Simmons, Ken Ivory, Mark Valentine, Darwyn Anderson and Joe Kuhn.

A deep secondary includes vet Paul McElroy, Kirby Arceneaux, Chris Mire, Roy Binion, Bruce Cheek, Mike Churillo, Tony Hiner, and Vic Minor.

Top defensive returnees include end Chuck Booth, tackle Steve Moody, noseguard Rick Cuevas, linebacker Robert Downing, and defensive backs Lynn Holifield, Sam Killingsworth, and Terry Moody.

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA—After experiencing its best football season in 15 years (9-1-1), the Lions now face a major rebuilding task.

Coach Billy Brewer, beginning his fourth season, must replace the starting backfield, key linemen and top defensive personnel among 18 seniors gone from last year.

Tops among the losses are all-GSC quarterback Don Griffin, the Offensive Player of the Year in the league, and running backs Horace Belton and Rogers Wilson.

The Lions have hopes that quarterbacks Dean Waguespack and Kenny McSwain can fill in the gap left by Griffin and that senior Herbie Williams will be ready to lead the runners.

The offensive line will be led by center Mike Creely and tackle Keen Jackson.

Defensively the line is led by C. A. Hill and Wayne LeBlanc, small but quick and excellent defenders, and end Perry Smith.

Linebacker Wayne Faul ranks as one of the best in the nation. Cornerback Donald Dykes, a national track star, starts his third straight season.

NICHOLLS STATE—Following a 4-6-1 finish last year, the Colonels return 33 lettermen this fall. Eighteen starters (nine on offense and nine on defense) return, but Coach Bill Clements will have only six seniors on the team.

Offensively, the Colonels must find a replacement for All-America wide receiver Gerald Butler. The top quarterback candidate is Ted Bergeron, one of three offensive seniors, while the strong suit on offense should be the line, where starters return at every position.

All-GSC linebacker Rusty Rebowe is back to lead the Colonel defenders and has been the team's top tackler for the past two seasons. Only one starter returns in the secondary, and Clements has shown some concern in that area as the Colonels attempt to regain the form which carried them to the 1975 conference crown.

NORTH ALABAMA—New coach Wayne Grubb will be banking on several key players returning from last year's 4-5-1 club and a host of newcomers to solve the puzzle to gridiron questions.

Grubb, former head coach at Samford University and later an assistant with the Birmingham Americans and Birmingham Vulcans of the World Football League, says all positions are open and that no player, regardless of experience and prominence, has his slot sewn up.

The top rusher returning is senior runningback Maurice Brawley, (185) who gained over 400 yards and scored five touchdowns. The Lions have two able receivers in senior Robert Steele and junior Frankie Higginbotham. Steele led the GSC with 30 catches for 566 yards and five touchdowns, while Higginbotham caught 17 for 242 yards.

UNA played three different quarterbacks last season—juniors Garner Ezell, and Jeff Davis and senior Gerald Goodman. Kentucky transfer John Grubb is expected to challenge all three.

The top offensive lineman back is senior guard Terry Witherspoon (6-1, 240), a two-time All-TSC selection.

Defensively, the Lions return key performers in tackle Len Harvey, linebacker Mike Allison and backs Rodney Bivens and Donald Pearson.

LIVINGSTON UNIVERSITY—Jack Crowe, offensive coordinator, has moved up to head coach, replacing Jim King, who departed for an assistantship at Auburn.

Crowe will have his hands full in rebuilding the Tiger program that saw a 10-3 1975 NCAA playoff team drop to 5-5 in 1976.

With only six seniors, depth, or the lack of it, appears as the main problem area.

Senior quarterback Willie Slater, "Mr. Make Things Happen," is back along with halfback A. Z. Burnette, tight end Randy Bailey, and offensive guard Ricky Ford. Part-time tight end starter Lynn Shreve has been moved to fullback and David Jolley, a three-year starter at defensive tackle, has been shifted to offensive line.

Two-time All-America free safety Stanley King and defensive end Donald Jefferson, both All-GSC performers in 1976, anchor the defense.

Other defensive starters include cornerback Stan Talley, linebackers David Dean, David Walther and Mike Green, defensive end Ricky Brown, tackle Gabe Heeter, and nose guard Gus Torres.

The Tigers are strong in place kicking with junior James Mullinax, most consistent kicker in the league. Punting, the weakest point, is still a question mark.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE—After suffering through a 2-8 overall and 0-8 conference season, coach John Williams faces a major challenge to get his Choctaws out of the cellar.

The offensive line lost three starters, but center Bill Giles and three-year-veteran tackle Kenny Hudson return along with tight ends Eugene Smith and Pete Hurt.

Wide receivers were hard hit by graduation and the 1977 backfield will be without the services of leading rusher Barry McCay who entered medical school with one year of eligibility remaining.

Senior Tim Theriot and two-year letter winner Ezra Tate are the top running backs while Mickey McMurtry will be at quarterback.

Defensively, three senior letterman return to anchor the front wall—middle guard Jerry Jett, tackle Buddy Bailey, and tackle John Conner. Jett is one of the better middle guards in the conference.

All starters return in the defensive secondary and Williams is counting on Craig Kennedy and Jim Trimble at the safety spots and Robert Hudson and Larry McMurtry at the corners.

The kicking game should be stable with the return of punter Erskin Wesson and place kicker Don Lofton.

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By Smith Barrier

Executive Sports Editor of the Greensboro, N.C. News and the Greensboro Record, Smith Barrier has veteran knowledge of Mid-Eastern football play including the Black College Conferences

Atlantic Coast and Southern

MARYLAND GEARED FOR UNPRECEDENTED FOURTH STRAIGHT ACC CROWN

PREDICTIONS

Atlantic Coast Conference

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Maryland | 5. Wake Forest |
| 2. North Carolina | 6. N.C. State |
| 3. Duke | 7. Virginia |
| 4. Clemson | |

Southern Conference

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Appalachian | 5. Furman |
| 2. Virginia Military | 6. UT-Chattanooga |
| 3. The Citadel | 7. Marshall |
| 4. Western Carolina | 8. Davidson |

Independents

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. South Carolina | 4. William & Mary |
| 2. Richmond | 5. Virginia Tech |
| 3. East Carolina | 6. Guilford |

Mid-Eastern Athletic

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. South Carolina St. | 5. N.C. Central |
| 2. Morgan State | 6. Delaware State |
| 3. Howard | 7. Maryland-Eastern Shore |
| 4. North Carolina A&T | |

South Atlantic

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Gardner-Webb | 5. Carson Newman |
| 2. Elon | 6. Presbyterian |
| 3. Catawba | 7. Mars Hill |
| 4. Newberry | 8. Lenoir Rhyne |

Central Intercollegiate

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Hampton | 7. Fayetteville State |
| 2. Norfolk State | 8. Elizabeth City State |
| 3. Virginia Union | 9. Livingstone |
| 4. Johnson C. Smith | 10. Shaw |
| 5. Virginia State | 11. St. Paul's |
| 6. Winston-Salem State | |

Southwestern Athletic

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Grambling | 5. Prairie View |
| 2. Southern Univ | 6. Mississippi Valley |
| 3. Alcorn State | 7. Texas Southern |
| 4. Jackson State | |

"Maryland, My Maryland" will continue to be that beautiful song to bring cheering, pleading calls of "More, More" from Little Orleans, population 70, in the Appalachian Mountains on the west, to Girdletree, population 300, on the Eastern Shore off Chincoteague Bay.

Football, and football victories, will create this

wonderful atmosphere throughout the state of Maryland, and all because a modern day Claiborne has come to the masses in a popular cause.

History buffs, and there are some among collegiate football fans, may turn back to their books and find that William Claiborne settled on Kent Island in the Maryland Colony, but was not a happy settler. Fact is, fighting for religious freedom, his groups overthrew Lord Baltimore's government, and for four years ruled the colony. Then, in 1658, it was returned to Lord Baltimore on orders of the British crown.

Modern day Jerry Claiborne, as the University of Maryland head football coach, has established much the same rebellion, but after five years there seems little indication that anybody, even the British crown, can order this Claiborne to relinquish anything.

His Terrapins went 11-0 last regular season, and they could have won the Cotton Bowl except for Houdini escape from an end zone sack by the talented, slippery, determined Houston quarterback, who turned victory out of disaster. And, now, with experienced young men at practically every position, Claiborne's Terrapins go for a fourth Atlantic Coast Conference championship. Nobody has ever achieved that. Bill Murray's Duke teams won three straight in 1960-1-2.

Nobody, either, has ever dominated ACC football as these Terps. Claiborne's five-year mark with his fellow ACC members is 24-3-1. He tied his first conference game (24-24 with N.C. State) in 1972, he lost to Duke and North Carolina that year. In 1973 he lost 24-22 to N.C. State.

Now, for some statistics which mean something. Since that time, the Terps have won a record 20 straight league games. Eight of those 20 have been shutouts. The Terps outscored the league teams 619 to 154, or an average score of 31-7.

The program is solid. A year ago Joe Campbell was All-America and in May became a first round NFL draft. What happens back at College Park? Ernie Salley, who has won three letters, just moves over from guard to tackle, and at the vacant-also other tackle, there are two lettermen to move up. Claiborne moves young people with talent and experience up to replace other young people with talent and experience, but gone.

A rival coach says, "Maryland is in an ideal situation. It has the best location, being next to a metropolitan area and being so close to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania." A year ago in Street &

a year ago: leading ACC in that stats category for the fifth straight year, second in the nation in total defense, third in scoring defense, and so on. Seven regulars return, and one of them, guard Ernie Salley, goes for his fourth letter at tackle this time. There are four lettermen pushing for the other vacated tackle spot. The ends are seniors John Douglas and Chip Garber, the guards All-ACC Larry Seder and Ted Klaube.

Linebacker Brad Carr, All-ACC and top tackler a year ago, heads that experienced crew with junior Neal Olkewicz, and in the secondary are Lloyd Burgess, Doug Harbert and senior Jonathan Claiborne, the coach's son and on the All-ACC Academic team. Mike Sochko is the punter and placekicker as usual, aiming for a return to his junior production, and that puts the clincher on another fine Claiborne defense. This "fell apart" only three times in that 11-0 season just finished and that means, giving up more than one touchdown.

NORTH CAROLINA—(4-1-0, 9-3-0). A year ago Coach Bill Dooley, the dean of the ACC coaches (11th season upcoming), and the Tar Heels were not given a good run on the football field, but they got it. They went 9-2 for the season, got Mike Voight a lot of rushing yards, then went to the Peach Bowl and without Voight lost. This time around, of course, Voight must be replaced, but the Tar Heels get a good report. On filling that tailback spot, Dooley says, "We have a number of strong candidates, but nobody has come to the fore yet. We're still just looking and experimenting before we settle on the top two." And there was special spring attention to the secondary, which has given up a few bombs in recent years, but in the Blue-White game the secondary picked off three interceptions, and that can only be looked at as a real plus.

Carolina won some thrillers last fall: 34-32 over Army, 24-21 over Florida, 27-23 over Clemson, 39-38 over Duke. Maybe the defensive unit didn't hold up so well on those Saturdays, but eight of this team return to regular positions. All-ACC tackle Dee Hardison, 6-4, 252, heads the list, along with end Ken Sheets, middle guard Dave Simmons, cornerback Bobby Cale and strong safety Alan Caldwell. Tackles are Bunn Rhames or T. K. McDaniels with Hardison, and experienced linebackers are Buddy Curry, Mike Finn, Ronnie Dowdy and Bobby Gay. Ex-QB Bernie Menapace, who started last season, may go to the secondary. Standout of the Tar Heel defense last season was the kicking game, with punter Johnny Elam at 38.2 yd avg and coverage which held opposition to only 3.9 yds per return.

First off, on the offense, who's the tailback? Voight carried the ball 315 times last fall, leaving 337 for the others. Top candidates may be Doug Paschal, a soph, or red-shirted Terence Burrell. In the spring game sophs Phil Farris and Burrell starred. In the end it might be an incoming freshman, Famous Amos Lawrence of Tidewater, Va. Matt Kupec returns as QB, experienced, good passer, aided by P.J. Gay and Clyde Christensen. Billy Johnson is the FB, Mel Collins the WB, and both have good backups. Three good senior blockers are

gone from the line, but experience is provided by guards John Rushing, 6-3, 246, and Mike Salzano, 6-4, 235, and by tackle Bobby Hukill, 6-6, 244. End play is solid with Brooks Williams at tight end, and Walker Lee, Jim Rouse and Delbert Powell at split end. Thus, Coach Dooley works to rebuild that offensive line as a key project, because at the Voight tailback spot, he can run in four or five to alternate and keep the defense guessing.

DUKE—(2-3-1, 5-5-1). Originally, Coach Mike McGee was to open his 1977 football season with games against Penn State and Michigan. A contract problem eliminated Penn State (replaced by East Carolina). McGee looks to an offense with a slogan "Run With Dunn," and his scouting reports show that in the final conference games of 1976 (vs. N.C. State and North Carolina) Dunn's offense got 66 points and 750 yards rushing. When the year's totals were in, the Blue Devils had scored more points (234) and rushed more yards (2589) than any Duke team in 20 years. This is the attack which Coach McGee, himself an Outland Award winner in his Blue Devil playing days, wants to improve on, and he feels this way, "There is no comparison adequate for Mike Dunn. We feel he might just be the best quarterback in college football."

Dunn, a slippery junior who carries 187 pounds on a 6-4 frame, which can bend in any direction to get an extra yard, was sensational. He led the ACC total offense with 1835 yds, 757 of them rushing (4th in the league), 1078 passing (hitting 53.6 percent). He is known as a runner, but he did pass 15 times a game. Mike Barney leads the runners, pushed by junior Mike Addesa, and in the spring game soph fullback Ned Gonet might have won himself a starting slot. All-ACC Tom Hall and Glenn Sandefur return at ends, 6-3, 245 Mike Sandusky at guard, along with tackles Frank DeStefano (ACC runnerup heavyweight wrestling) and John Patterson, 6-6, 248. Replacement for All-America center Billy Bryan is wide open.

They talk about the linebackers at Duke. All-ACC Carl McGee, 6-3, 225, a junior, ranks with the best in the country, and when he teams up with senior Jim Reilly, juniors Derek Penn, Derrick Mashore and John McDonald, Duke claims the over-all quickness is the best ever at Duke. The four-front returns three: end Andy Schoenhof, tackle Lyman Smith and end Jeff Green, who won the ACC's Brian Piccolo Award as the league's most courageous athlete. Green had nine sacks last fall and led the ACC's defensive ends in tackles with 95. Six lettermen return in the secondary, including starters Dan Brooks and Earl Cook, back with 22 games starting experience. However, the kicking game, a Duke forte in the immediate past, looks for new people. Rick Sommers or Gonet will take over the punting, and Coach McGee knows he'd like to say "done well" here, just as he plans to say "Dunn well" with the offense.

CLEMSON—(0-4-1, 3-6-2). Charley Pell is not a new boy on the block. He had been brought to the Tiger staff the year before as defensive coordinator, and



JOHNNY EVANS totaled 1459 yards on passes and runs for N.C. State in 1976.



RALPH STRINGER (9), North Carolina State's all-purpose athlete who can play five different positions, tries to escape from big rush by Duke player.

Gillespie, switched from defense, plays the other guard. Senior Elijah Marshall tops the receivers, a great one. The Wolfpack backfield could be the most explosive in the league: senior Johnny Evans continuing at quarterback (excellent runner), Ted Brown as runner (2001 yds in two seasons, 24 TDs, 5.9 yd avg) backed up by Rickey Adams, Tim Johnson and fullback Billy Ray Vickers.

Eight defensive regulars return, and they start with massive 6-5, 272 Bubba Green at the tackle spot. A great pass rusher, Green anchors what might be State's most aggressive front five in years. A.W. Jenkins takes the nose guard, soph Simon Gupton, 6-2, 244, the other tackle. Sophomores Joe Hannah and Marion Gale may be the ends, and linebacking starts anew as well: reserves Bill Cowher and Kyle Wescoe. Ralph Stringer, missing all last season with injury, goes to the secondary again, All-ACC two seasons back, and senior Richard Carter puts experience there. Evans not only QBs but punts with the best in the country, and senior Jay Sherrill got 41 kicking points. As for coach Rein: "We feel the talent is there."

VIRGINIA—(1-3-0, 2-9-0). Dick Bestwick came from Georgia Tech to head up the Cavalier football program a year ago, under what everybody terms "a solid commitment" to bring winning football to Charlottesville. "Last year we started 13 seniors," he says now, "and this fall we'll only be counting on five or six, and the same next year. We have recruited players who are the sort you can win with." One of these young people may be the No. 1 Virginia quarterback, and he will have to do under the most trying circumstances. As Bestwick says, "I don't like the idea of opening at N.C. State, but I can't stand the thought of playing the second game at Texas. They have the kind of team that could hurt us, and you can't afford that with a young squad." But charter flight arrangements have not been cancelled.

"Quarterback is still our number one problem spot, and we'll take a very long look at the four

first-year players right quick in the fall," the coach says. Soph Phil Spencer ended spring drills at QB, but look for Ted Manly, Bob Anderson, Quentin Murray and Bryan Shumock for early calls. They are incoming freshman QBs. Skip Browning moved to tailback late last fall, now comes 6-3, 210 Vanderbilt transfer Paul Izlar as his mate carrying the ball. Vince Mattox, rising junior who started at defensive end sometime, has been moved to fullback. Tackle John Choma, 6-6, 246, tops the offensive line, with veteran Kenny Fulp at center, guards Al Alvarez and Eddie Smith, ends Tim Moon and Mike Newhall, both rising sophomores. Veterans Andre Grier, flanker; Hans Baumann, tackle; and Ric Zimmerman, guard, will be at their regular positions. Twice last fall UVA got no points, four other times a single touchdown.

The defense has been there before, and together. Maybe that's good, maybe not, because last fall the defense gave up 416 yards a game and never gave up less than two touchdowns. By the end of Bestwick's inaugural brush, he was starting five, sometimes six first-year men. They do have experience. By head-count 10 defensive starters return, but there has been wholesale movement. Bill Bridges, back, and Steve Potter, linebacker, are now defensive ends; linebacker Russ Meyer the best nose guard, senior lineman Sam Pfabe the best linebacker, aided by Joe Turner and Bryan Coleman. Lee Browning, 6-2, 225, returns as a junior tackle regular. The secondary again has Tony Blount, Derrick Glasper, Jay Morris, Mike Brancati and Bob Bowden, and two are seniors: Bowden and Morris. If you look for a freshman (other than the QB) who may start, check out 6-2, 220 Mike Budd at nose guard.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

APPALACHIAN—(2-2-1, 6-4-1). For the favorite role in SC football year, the Mountaineers at any price, but mainly if Robby Price can go full time, full steam and full health to match his sophomore season. Coach Jim Brakefield banks on a solid offensive unit

quick end. Depth and size both could cause problems for the Catamounts of Cullowhee.

FURMAN—(2-2-1, 6-4-1). Coach Art Baker puts it bluntly: "It's almost like starting over." The Paladins lost 25 lettermen, most of whom were regulars, part of Baker's first recruiting class at Furman. The veer attack rated No. 1 in the conference last season, and the defense was No. 2. Although only six starters return from this fine record, there are reserves with varying degrees of experience. It took adjustment for the coach: "Any time you lose the number of players we did, you have to change your practice habits and begin teaching things that came so easily to your seniors."

The veer will be run by junior QB Jimmy Kiser, who steps up. Tagged a nifty runner and adequate passer, Baker says of Kiser: "People will enjoy watching him play." Kent Woerner is the FB, David Kelley the tailback with Mark Stowers. Flanker Tonny Southard, conference leading pass catcher (39 for 510 yds), made All-SC, and teams with TE Brette Simmons, injured most of last season. Junior Greg Laetsch is the split end again. Rickey Young 6-2, 230 tops the centers, Hal Westlake the tackles, but the line lacks depth and experience.

Only three starters return to the defense: senior Frank Moses at nose guard, senior Bobby Church at tackle and junior Russell Gambrell at free safety. Beach Foster and Richard Ingram help in the secondary, senior Jimmy Neal at linebacker. Soph tackles Rodney Heintz 6-2, 235 and David Lyle 6-4, 227 show fine potential, and it will be needed for the Paladins.

UT-CHATTANOOGA—(new member, 6-4-1). The Mocs have played Southern Conference teams for years (with a 14-9-1 record), but it's good to be in a league. Last year was the first winning Moc record since 1968, but Coach Joe Morrison's club went 4-1-1 in the final six games, thus ready for more and better. There are 41 lettermen back, including 15 starters, and punter, Greg Cater, who ranked 2nd in Division II with his fine 44.2 yds per kick as a frosh.

Offensively, Tony Merendino and Doug Elstad will be battling for the top QB spot where Elstad was a starter until injured, vs The Citadel. Merendino came on, hit 46 percent of his passes, led the team in total offense. The line has talent and strength: center Garfield Wells (who has made every offensive snap since he entered UTC) and guard Pete Pullara, but reserves must fill in from there. The running backs also provide a "Wanted: Need Help" sign in the mountains.

Injury forced the Mocs to a one-linebacker defense much of last season, but Lee Rollins and Danny Emery return. In the secondary again are Wayne Crittenden, Stan Eller, David McKinney and Kenny Mitchell, while the front has tackle Marty Duncan and Ronnie Powe, who led the club in tackles as a freshman. End Kurt Woerner has been moved to linebacker. And there is always a future book. Consider a 6-2, 220 member of the incoming freshman class. He's a defensive lineman named (so help me) Stoni Wall from (so help me Stone Mountain, Ga.

MARSHALL—(new member, 4-7-0). Coach Frank Ellwood's team doubled the number of victories from his rookie year, but he wants more thunder from the Thundering Herd. He returns 35 lettermen, and the Herd will again run the I, and youth will be the call. Sophomores will be spotted at many of the offensive starting assignments, and Ellwood recruited heavily for the defensive unit, where they will likely be starting or tabbing considerable playing time.

There is a good offensive line, if the coach says so himself, and it has sophomores. Guards will be Dan Wells and Sylvester Drobney, the tackles Howie Harris 5-9, 245 and Mike Kesling 6-2, 277. Steve Williams heads a good group of tight ends. Bud Nelson returns at quarterback, where he hit 78 of 171 passes for 991 yards and eight TDs, also running for 293 yds more. Junior Mike Bailey is the key running back with a 4.7 yd avg per carry, and fullback J.C. Felton picked up 270 yds. Transfer (from Michigan State) Claude Geiger 6-2, 192 is also at tailback.

The defense has Ed McTaggart and Ray Crabtree as linebackers, Larry Jones as the middle guard, soph Bryan Hiatt 6-2, 252 as tackle up from the reserves. Maybe the secondary is the strength, having cornerback Bob Coleman and safety Harold Wetzel, and, of course, the "buffalo back," who does everything and plays everywhere. He's two-year starter Keywn Williams.

DAVIDSON—(0-0-0, 2-6-1). It must be explained. Davidson is still a member of the Southern Conference, but it has only one football game with a league member (VMI) and it is ineligible for any football honors (team or individual). The Wildcats also step down from Division I to Division II. With that out of the way, Coach Ed Farrell finds "for the first time we will have lettermen at all 22 positions." There are few seniors, and Farrell adds, "There is no phase of the game where we will excel."

The Cats run the wing-T, have QBs Bob McCarthy and Al Rhyne to run it from the intact backfield. That also includes FB Page Walley (rushing leader, 4.2 yd avg) and tailbacks Pete Legler, Eddie Setser and Craig Pyles. Center Luis Abreu has been a two-year starter, tackle starters are again Phillip Teye and Randy Seago, as well as guard Chip Howell. Ten players caught passes a year ago, nine return, headed by Larry Crees. Defensively, four good ends return, as well as soph tackle Mike Hardman 6-2, 250. FB Terrell Rhye has been moved to bolster the linebackers, and the secondary appears in good hands: returning Lee Wilder, Virgil Fludd, Phil Gilbert, Cris Boslet and Landis Wade. The Wildcats play a "more reasonable" schedule which begins with Fordham and closes with Lafayette.

INDEPENDENTS

SOUTH CAROLINA—(6-5-0). To start with, the Gamecocks have an experienced, talented quarterback to direct the triple option. They have eight offensive starters in uniform again. The defense does not have the experience, but coach Jim Carlen views it like this: "We made great strides in improving our

yds) and fullback Keith Fimian (703 yds). Rozantz was the SC total offensive leader with 1575 yds total. His receivers again will be Ken Cloud, Joe Mandenfield and Gray Oliver. Tackle Dudley Johnson and guard Allen Goode spark the line.

Nine defensive starters take the challenge again, where they ranked fifth in the nation against the pass. Root adds, "Our entire secondary is intact, and with only two starters gone, we appear to be in good shape there." The secondary has Scott Hays, Joe Agee, Keith Potts and Ken Smith. Ends Rolfe Carman and Melvin Martin star up front with tackle Dave O'Neill. The defense lowered its scoring allowance from 23.7 the year before to a respectable 13.6 last season. Coach Root wants more of the same.

VIRGINIA TECH—(6-5-0). Jimmy Sharpe, in his fourth season at Tech, aims for a third straight winning record, which would be the first such achievement since 1968, but there is a lot of work to be done. Graduation took its toll, and Coach Sharpe cut his eye straight at the problem: "We've got to be strong down the middle . . . center, quarterback, fullback." Then he looked at the tackle holes where three-year starters are missing. But there are 40 lettermen on hand, and they include a lot from the defensive unit.

The secondary is intact, for instance, with Gary Smith, Gene Bunn, Henry Bradley, Eddie Snell and Chip Keatley. Two others moved to offense: Steve Scott to fullback, Dale Babiond to wide receiver. Big men up front include senior nose guard Bill Houseright, 6-4, 240, and tackles Mike Faulkner, 6-2, 250, and Doug McDougald, 6-5, 260. Senior Rick Razzano and Mike Stollings head the linebackers.

The senior burner, Roscoe Coles (with 13 hundred-plus games in two years), carries the ball in the wishbone, and there are track speedsters Dennis Scott (9.5 hundred), Larry Fallen and hurdler Kenny Lewis to help. QB will be either junior David Lamie or redshirt soph Don LaRue, and fullback may go to a freshman, Mike Romagnoli. Line starters are tight end Dave Dolphin, guards Leonard Walker and Barry Miller.

GUILFORD—(4-5-0). Gone are two all-stars, but coach Charles Forbes returns the entire offensive line, led by 6-2, 285 Mike McClune, who doubles as the Quaker kicker (school record nine FGs last season), and by Chip Herring. QB Johnny Stewart, with 123 yds per game passing, sparks the attack. Receivers are led by junior Avery Cutshaw, soph Mike Craft and junior Brad Haines. Runners will be Greg Small and Jimmy Lee, both inexperienced. Says coach Forbes, "Much of the success of this team will depend on how our linebackers come along." Roosevelt Moody, 6-1, 210, joins the linebacking corps as a junior college transfer, and he's with Ira Johnson, Morris McCarther and Greg Gambrell. Junior Billy Thomas breaks into the secondary. Thus the Quakers rebuild, seeking to replace a runner who got 1000 yards two consecutive years (Reggie Kenan) and a middle guard voted "best defensive lineman" four straight years (Bunky James).



RICK RAZZANO (left) heads Virginia Tech linebackers and ROSCOE COLES is top runner in Wishbone offense.

MID-EASTERN

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE—(5-1-0, 10-1-0). When Willie Jeffries returned to his alma mater four seasons ago, he thought in terms of defense and championships. The trio went together well, and here in his fifth year Jeffries, who turned down an NFL coaching job in the off-season, looks to a solid offense to help carry the Bulldogs to a solo MEAC title, rather than a share. His 10-1 mark, with the Bicentennial Bowl win, was his best, ranking No. 1 team in Mutual Black Network poll. The Bulldogs also ranked first in the nation on defense, but seven are gone, and Jeffries finds this his major challenge for the upcoming campaign. Junior Walt Sullivan, 6-5, 285, moves to All-America Robert Sims' tackle spot, along with soph Robin Campbell, 6-5, 250. Senior Mike Washington tops the linebackers, and Tommy Brown returns as strong safety. But the offense loses only its key blocking guard, thus returning guard Arthur Prescott, center Greg Holden, tackles Charles Simpkins and Albert Lester. Jesse Prather is the QB, and he runs as well as tailback Charles Burgess and FB Rickey Anderson. They threw only 72 passes all year. Jeffries can score, his work will be to keep the opponents from same.

MORGAN STATE—(5-1-0, 6-4-0). Coach Henry Lattimore shared the 1976 championship with S.C. State, but the Bears had the big trip. They played in Tokyo, vs Grambling, and excited 50,000 people. That was a good way to enjoy a first coaching season. The offense gives Lattimore good reason to anticipate another fine season, and it is led by QB Allen Rose, who missed a Morgan passing record because of injury in the Howard game. He hit 1030 yds—and was the second rusher with 464. Runners Nathan Munford (2nd All-MEAC) and Lloyd McCleave set up behind Rose, and tight end Ron Williams is moved to wide receiver. Replacements must come up front, but guard Marvin Hicks, 6-3 220, and tackle Wayne LeCompte, 6-1, 265, again start. Leading the defensive way will be second All-MEAC end Elvis Franks, 6-5, 230, and the tackles

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VIRGINIA UNION—(5-3-0, 7-4-0). The Big Red Machine may keep down the straight and narrow this season. It has Judge Thomas to carry the ball, the only sophomore on the 1976 Mutual Black Network's first All-America team. He ran over people at 6-2, 190, and away from people with 4.5 speed: 1116 yds, average better than seven yds per, 13 TDs. Coach Willard Bailey has four sophs at fullback. Garfield Mizelle and Ruffin Joyner share QB, and defensive stars Curtis Lyman and Kenneth Roman have moved to offensive line. All-CIAA punter Mike Crawley returns, and he may be needed more, since there are replacements in the front four defensively. The Big Red Machine had a good recruiting year, and some of the young spark plugs will certainly fit into plans.

JOHNSON C. SMITH—(3-5-0, 4-7-0). The year of nightmares is gone. The Bulls lost five games (of seven total) by five points or less, and three were in the CIAA by total seven points, which wrecked the conference record. Coach Eddie McGirt has veteran offensive strength in runners Tony Koonce and Ernest (Warhorse) Williams, with considerable help up front. Defensively, however, there are more gaps, although cornerback Wille Jones returns. Transfers and recruits get heavy calls on defense. Coach McGirt has a fine record of seldom, if ever, having back-to-back losing seasons. That intangible must be scouted by opponents.

VIRGINIA STATE—(3-5-0, 4-7-0). New Coach Tom Morris gets back into the CIAA as head coach, and his squad is blessed with fine and experienced players. The running of Rufus Crawford is a strong point, All-CIAA with 835 yds, plus a kickoff returner with 22.2 yd average. His running mate, George Leonard, ran for 721 yds, six TDs, and there is again QB Maurice Banks to direct the attack, with a good arm, too. The running game has been declared set. The Trojan defense is led by All-CIAA tackle Chris Moore and a linebacker with similar league credits, Curtis Pleasants, but the defense appears to be the department needing most work.

A year ago Coach Bill Hayes had an auspicious debut at **WINSTON-SALEM STATE** (4-4-0, 4-6-0). The 4-4 conference mark was a real achievement for the Rams. A fine offensive unit returns, led by center Robert Weeks and young Kermit Blount at QB, a fine passer. **FAYETTEVILLE STATE** (5-3-0, 7-3-0) lost only three times last fall, but they were all conference games. Thus, Coach Ray McDougal looks to the defense as a strong point: most starters return, sparked by twice All-CIAA secondary Maurice Franks. The defense allowed only 8.4 points a game last year, despite poor punting game. Offensive line is led by All-CIAA tackle Burnie Travis. **ELIZABETH CITY STATE** (3-5-0, 3-7-0) has a new coach, Tommy Morris, but he knows the Vikings well. He was elevated from the staff. Punting of Alfred Holmes remains, plus wide receiver Michael Hill, runner Darrell Rodgers and QBs Johnny Williams and Jeffrey Postel. However, the new head coach's top attention must go to the defense, with little experience



MIKE MOORE, Grambling ace, got 40 for 651 yards.

there. **LIVINGSTONE** (4-4-0, 6-5-0) keeps coming strong for Coach Baxter Holmes, priding itself on a third place CIAA finish in defensive stats last season. They are again led by standout linebacker Johnny Stoutamire and nose guard Robert Richardson. Runner John Lucas tries to bolster the offense (which went scoreless twice, got one TD thrice). **SHAW** (1-7-0, 2-7-0) got hope in the 1976 season finale: 56-10 over Livingstone, and coach Horace Small wants to go on from there. Offense is led by wide receiver Bo Darden, 57 catches for 760 yds, again primary target for QB Cecil Alexander (1067 aerial yds, after slow start). QB Gay Walker also returns. Stronger defense must become a fact, however. **ST. PAUL'S** (1-7-0, 3-8-0) again turns to the air for offense, QB Sam Cosby having thrown 2075 yds and 12 TDs, hitting over 50 percent. Receiver James Woodson caught 51 for 738 yards, but Coach Pernell Simms again must balance that with running, and the defense has to jell.

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

GRAMBLING—(4-2-0, 8-3-0). Seventeen consecutive winning seasons, and veteran Coach Eddie Robinson's forces just say, "Grambling never rebuilds, they just reload." This will be Robinson's 36th season at Tigertown, and he will be missing nine starters of a year ago, three of whom earned All-America honors. But the Tigers seldom come up short, and he's got a senior QB named Douglas Williams to lead. The 6-4, 214 All-America, called a "bazooka-armed" passer and pushed as a "bonafide candidate" for the Heisman, has won 25 of the 29 games he has started since mid-season as a freshman. He holds the school record with 55 TD passes (over James Harris of the Rams), the state record of 23 TD passes in a season (over Terry Bradshaw of the Steelers). Last year he hit 51 percent, got 2,106 yards, hit 20 TD passes. With him goes Carlos Pennywell, whose 30 catches last fall got 477 yards (15.9 per) and 12 TDs, and Robinson says: "He is our big play man. When we split him wide, the opposition has to give him double or triple coverage. He's really something." Mike Moore caught even more: 40 for 651 yds. And don't overlook a soph phenom: Edward Campbell, only five catches as a freshman—

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By Pat Truly

Prize-winning sports columnist Pat Truly of the Fort Worth, Texas, Star Telegram is in his sixteenth season on Southwest Conference scene.

Southwest

TEXAS A&M LEADS THE WAY TO A NEW ERA OF SOUTHWEST FOOTBALL

PREDICTIONS

Southwest

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Texas A&M | 6. Arkansas |
| 2. Texas Tech | 7. SMU |
| 3. Houston | 8. Rice |
| 4. Texas | 9. TCU |
| 5. Baylor | |

Independents

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. North Texas State | 2. Texas Lutheran |
|----------------------|-------------------|

Southland

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. McNeese | 4. Louisiana Tech |
| 2. SW Louisiana | 5. Texas-Arlington |
| 3. Arkansas State | 6. Lamar |

Lone Star

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Texas A&I | 5. Angelo State |
| 2. East Texas | 6. S.F. Austin |
| 3. Southwest Texas | 7. Sam Houston State |
| 4. Abilene Christian | 8. Howard Payne |

Texas Intercollegiate AA

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Trinity | 4. Sul Ross |
| 2. Tarleton State | 5. Austin College |
| 3. McMurry | |

A double-barreled era has ended for Southwest football.

Things will never again be as they were, if only because Darrell Royal at Texas and Frank Broyles at Arkansas gave up the coaching reins (remaining as athletic directors) after last season.

But 1976 in the Southwest was notable for more than that and the Bicentennial. It seemed to mark a shift in the balance of power in the Southwest Conference, away from the Texas-Arkansas axis of the 1960s and early 1970s.

Why, there are young fans in the region (too young to recall Doak Walker and Jim Swink and Dick Maegle) who didn't realize there could BE an SWC race without Texas (or maybe Arkansas) in the driver's seat.

So it was a milestone when the Texas Tech Red Raiders and those new kids on the block, the Houston Cougars, tied for the title. Those two and ever-so-close Texas A&M all went on to bowl games.

What wrought the change in equilibrium down in cow country? Partly scholarship limitations, partly

untimely injuries, but mostly the effect over a few years of aggressive recruiting by coaches like Emory Bellard of A&M, Bill Yeoman of Houston and Grant Teaff of Baylor—plus the arrival of inspiring younger mentors like Steve Sloan of Texas Tech and Ron Meyer at SMU.

And as it is now, it isn't likely that any one team, or two teams, will dominate the Southwest as Royal's Longhorns—and occasionally Broyles' Razorbacks—used to do.

Sloan says this year's conference race will be even closer than last year's. That would require a three-way tie.

Certainly Texas A&M is primed for a run at the crown (and higher national honors) that it missed by the measure of a couple of Houston and Tech passes in '76.

Yeoman's Cougars proved themselves in their first SWC season by winning in the Cotton Bowl and now have momentum to go with a crop of talented players.

Texas Tech has momentum of its own plus a gee-whiz quarterback named Rodney Allison.

Those are the obvious Big Three, but Baylor, Texas and Arkansas shouldn't be far off the pace and even the lower echelon schools are feeling feisty.

SMU, under Meyer, came a long way last year. So did Rice, where coach Homer Rice has his guys filling the air with footballs. And now TCU has high hopes, having plucked highly-regarded F.A. Dry from Tulsa to rebuild the Frog fortunes. Dry joins Fred Akers at Texas and Lou Holtz at Arkansas as the SWC's new faces for '77.

Akers, coming from Wyoming, once was a Royal aide at Texas. Now he's his own man, inheriting a rich tradition. Holtz used to win at North Carolina State, spent a year with the Jets, and then decided Fayetteville, Ark., was more fun than Fun City.

Holtz was quickly impressed with his new surroundings. He looked at the SWC teams on film and announced, "This conference has as many outstanding teams as any league in America. Look at the non-conference record. Last year Southwest teams defeated or tied all three of the Big Eight's co-champions."

Indeed, the Southwest tingles with superior players, in all shapes and sizes. All-America candidates include Allison and Dan Irons of Tech; Baylor's Gary Don Johnson and Ronald Burns; A&M's

Dan Irons (6-7, 260) is an All-America type at tackle, with Wilbert Cunningham (260) at the other tackle. Greg Davis (225) and Greg Wessels (235) are the guards and Terry Anderson the center. All but Cunningham started last year.

The serious losses were on defense, but it looked solid in the spring. Big-play man Richard Arledge (190) returns at one end with Olan Tisdale probably handling the other flank. The inside positions will be manned by Jim Krah (250) and either Kim Tali-ferro (245) or Curtis Reed (232).

All-America Thomas Howard is gone from linebacker, but his shoes are filled by Mike Mock (215), with veteran Gary McCright (216) and Don Kelly (220) joining him.

The secondary is outstanding. Safety Greg Frazier (196) came through with five key interceptions last year and should bid for "all" honors this time around. Larry Dupre (182) and Alan Emerson (196) may again divide time at the other safety. Eric Felton (200) returns at one corner and punt return ace Mike Patterson should take over at the other.

Kicking is a problem. Mock might wind up as the punter.

Beyond the veteran front-line troops (27 seniors will be seeing action) depth is a problem, but while Allison is in there the Raiders will again be dangerous.

HOUSTON—What the Cougars did to the Southwest Conference establishment last year shouldn't happen to a dog. They turned from a 2-8 patsy into a 10-2 terror, including a Cotton Bowl win over Maryland. They put egg on the face of those who said no first-year member of the lodge could win the title.

Now the upstarts are back, minus All-America Wilson Whitley and some other key defensive performers, but with 14 starters and the heart of the offense intact.

It may make a difference that by now coach Bill Yeoman has made believers of all those SWC opponents, but the Cougars think they can do it again.

Quarterback Danny Davis is a good reason why. Davis got better game-by-game in 1976, and amassed 1768 yards total offense. The 175-pounder continued to improve in the spring. If help is needed, Delrick Brown (160) is available.

Davis can dial any number for running help. Rushing leader Alois Blackwell (934 yards) is back, ably supported by Dyril Thomas (200), Randy Love (193), Charles Lynch (190) and Emmett King (203). They can all do the job, as they proved in the bowl game.

Knee victim Don Bass (208, 4.5 speed) should be back at split end, where he averaged 23 yards per catch. Rickey Maddox (187) is a solid flanker, and Anthony Meyers (6-5, 215) will start at tight end, where Bass can also fill in.

Kevin Rollwage (224) and Calvin Darnell (250) are the tackles, with Ramon Rosales (260) and Walter Faniel (235) or Jim Wells at guard and Chuck Brown returning at center.

The losses were heavier on defense, but solid letterman are there as replacements.

Robert Oglesby (226) is the nose guard again,

probably spelled by massive Melvin Jones (275). Grady Ebensberger (250) joins steady returnee Ross Echols (235) at tackle. Reid Hansen (6-5, 200) moves from right to left end, with Vincent Greenwood (208) on the right side and Ken Perry also due to see action. Room might have to be made someplace for freshmen Hosea Taylor (265) and Alvin Ruben (225).

David Hodge (211) is a standout linebacker, while Willis Williams (215) came on in the spring. Also available are veteran Sonny Privett (225) and Steve Bradham.

Senior Anthony Francis (203) was all-conference last year intercepting 10 passes and now will bid for further honors as the right cornerback.

He's the leader of a secondary that includes returnees Frederick Snell (6-4, 207) and Elvis Bradley (180) at the safety positions. Gerald Cook (189) moves up to the other corner, and Harold Fields and Don Sebastian are other capable hands.

Jay Wyatt will do the punting and Kenny Hatfield the placements.

In short, last year the Cougars were unproven and won anyway. Now they're proven, especially on offense.

TEXAS—No Darrell Royal pacing the sidelines with headphones tousling his hair? No wishbone offense? Not one but TWO receivers posted wide? A team coming off a mediocre 5-5-1 season? Can this be Texas?

Yep, podner, but the Longhorns have a whole new look under Freddie Akers. Oh, the uniforms are still burnt orange, but they'll move from the veer and the I and a lot of the names are new, especially on defense, despite the presence of 29 lettermen from the last "Royal team."

Akers bemoans a lack of depth and the overall youth of his team.

But he has a healthy Earl Campbell, which is a good place to start. Campbell, an All-America choice as a sophomore in 1975, is a rare talent who was wasted by injuries last year. Missing several games, his rushing total fell to a mere 653 yards. It says something about Texas' season that that figure still led the team. Now Earl is lighter (220) and faster and that's bad news for opponents.

He may also get the ball more often in Akers' offense. Handing it to him will be Mark McBath (185), who became a starter last year as a freshman. McBath is a capable runner and passer. The other back will be Johnny "Ham" Jones (180), also injured last season. Jimmy Johnson and Ivey Suber also return to duty.

Texas might pass more this year, owning some remarkable receivers. The flanker, for instance, is Olympic sprinter Johnny "Lam" Jones (176), surely the fastest man in football and tough enough to gain 624 yards rushing as a freshman.

Alfred Jackson, who averaged 19 yards on 19 catches, is the split end. Mike Lockett, another speedster, is also due to see action. Sophomore Gil Harris (205) remains at tight end.

With George James (245) and David Studdard (250) at tackle—both of them missed spring drills—



STEVE LITTLE combines punting and placekicking for Arkansas Razorbacks.

RON CALCAGNI hopes to escape injuries this year and win starting QB berth for the Razorbacks.

per cent of his throws. Donny Bobo, Doug Barwegan and lanky Robert Farrell (6-6, 196) are the prime receivers, along with tight end Charles Clay (199).

With three players, two of them all-conference men, missing from the offensive line, another rebuilding job was done there. The Hogs came out of it with enormous Steve Heim (270) and Leotis Harris (261) moved from guard to tackle and replaced by Jerry Sullivan (225) and Tom Ginn (225). Rick Shumaker (229) stepped in at center.

The defense got a boost when Mark Lewis (261) returned to school. A standout tackle in 1975, Lewis will be at nose guard for '77 if he recovers from spring surgery. Dan Hampton (6-5, 240) and Dale White (240) will man the tackle positions. A spring search unearthed Jim Howard (216) and Cornelius Smith (202) as the probable defensive ends.

William Hampton (218) is a returning starter at one linebacking spot, probably to be joined by Larry Jackson (216).

Last year Howard Sampson (178) missed sure all-conference recognition when he shuttled around the secondary, seeing action at all four positions, between wrist and ankle injuries. Now he'll probably settle down at strong safety as the glue in an exceptional defensive backfield. With him are three other veterans, Vaughn Lusby, Patrick Martin and Brad Shoup.

Arkansas considers Sampson and Cowins candidates for post-season honors, and add Steve Little to that list. Little was on one All-America team last year after kicking four 50-yard-plus field goals (one of 61 yards) and punting for a 44.4-yard average. Little is even an important cog in the defense, because he kicks off out of the end zone 82 per cent of the time.

SMU—Ron Meyer's version of the power of positive thinking put unexpected pizzazz in the Mustangs last year and led to an equally surprising 3-8 record and a season-ending upset of Arkansas.

Now a less devastating non-conference slate and the benefit of a year's residence give the Ponies renewed hope despite the loss of a quarterback Ricky Wesson.

Meyer's team remains young—no one in the Southwest will rely more heavily on freshmen and sophomores. But there are 16 returning starters among 31 letter winners.

The most exciting of them is tailback Arthur Whittington (170), who rushed for 789 yards and specializes in kick runbacks (two punts and one kickoff returned for TDs last year). Offensively the Mustangs' idea may be to get the ball to L'il Arthur. Walter Foster (210), oft-injured Milton Jones or a recruit will line up at fullback, with quick sophomore Emanuel Tolbert (175) at slotback.

Tony Black (158) has some experience, but a freshman like Mike Ford, Mark Gibson or James Mobley is likely to step in at quarterback this fall.

Sophomore Robert Fisher (220) is an exceptional tight end, snaring 23 passes as a freshman. Tom Ferguson (160) will be a split end.

Harris Brownlee (220) at center and guards Don Mudd (240) and Joe Bays (240) returns in the middle of the line, while Rick Cowart (235) and sophomore Mike Jusko (250) move into the lineup at tackle.

There's greater experience but less size, on defense. The Mustangs scrap with you, but still allowed more than 400 yards per game last season.

The front five return, with Gary Nelson (190) and Newt Dorsett (190) at the ends, James Wright (215)

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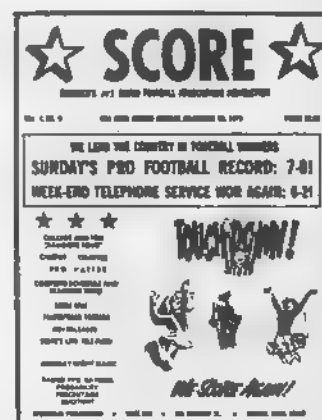
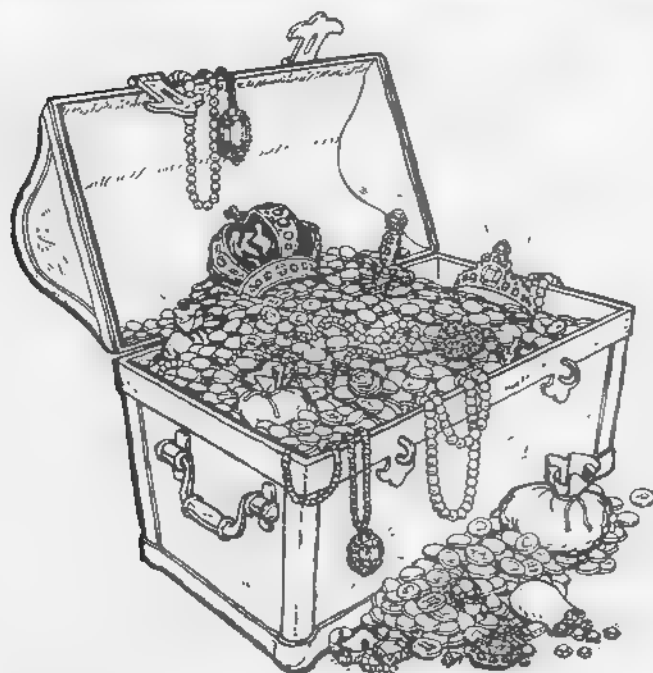
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(235) steps in at fullback and Bryan Sweeney at flanker. Larry Urban, Elvis Hartsfield or Martin Stroman will be the quarterback. Glenn Starks is sensational (60 receptions last year) at split end, as is tight end Clem Franks. But Billy John (225), Mark Dizdar and center Stuart Dornburg (215) are the only veterans in the line.

The linebacking is solid, with Johnny Barefield (230), David Palmore, Joe Henke and Wade Whitmer available. Sure line starters are ends Andy Hawkins and Mike Hawkins (220) and tackle Steve Fefer (235). Doug Greene is a secondary standout after picking off seven passes in 1976. With him are sprinter Hughie Shaw (190), veteran Jafus White and Randy Brooks (190).

EAST TEXAS—Third a year ago, the Lions are ready to make a run at the Lone Star crown behind a stout offensive line and Terry Skinner (180), already a three-year starter at quarterback. Thirty-three lettermen enhance the bid.

Skinner will have Calvin Washington (195) and Mike Richardson to carry the mail. Terry Holley is the flanker, with Donnie Rogers (165) and Fred Ellis (215) the ends. Center Ramiro Lucio (250) is a standout, joined in the line by tackles Monty Woodall (245) and Steve Washington (250) and guards David Bryant (245) and Robert Hinkle (220).

The defense is less experienced but has size and talent. Al Davis (280) is the anchor at nose guard. Don Jones (215) and Ron Byrd (220) step in at end, with Joe Petrino (250) and Tommy Nobles the tackles. David Farris (195) heads a cast of linebackers that includes Vince Johnson (215) and Donny Geldert. Rex Fox (180) and Nate Washington are old hands in the secondary, where Brian Jackson and Eric Johnson will also start.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS—Among 24 lettermen in Bill Miller's stable is a veteran starting backfield, and the Bobcats' hopes for improvement on last year's 5-5 record start right there.

Kevin Jurgajtis (204) is an outstanding fullback in the straight T attack, flanked by halfbacks Jessie Davis (196) and Paul Darby (185). Directing the power offense is quarterback Luis Reyes (172), who passed for 1,289 yards last year. Jesus Olivares and David Bailiff (217) step in at the ends.

Mike Merritt (237) shines at guard, paired with Steve Ferrell. Kelly Monk is the center, with giant Joel Gonzales (290) and Steve Smith at tackle.

Ends Harold Davis and Glenn Gundy (228) and tackle David McGarah (244) return in the defensive line, joined by tackle Mark Mattingly (255) and guard Elvis Shaw (250). Dan Bierstadt (228) and Allan Bruns (219) are solid linebackers and Darrell Johnson is a standout in a secondary of Leroy Bailey, Keith Frase and Ronnie Kuhn.

ABILENE CHRISTIAN—Dewitt Jones steps from success in the high school ranks to ramrod the Wildcats' annual effort to whip the Lone Star Conference into shape and has a flock of healthy transfers to go with 16 returning starters.

Ten of those starters are on defense. Likely-look-

ing linemen include veterans Mike Lively, James McCoy and Larry Norris and big transfer Eugene Toole. Ray Nunez, Bill Tydings, and John Usrey are holdover linebackers, while Chuck Sitton, Harold Nutall, Mike Belew, Gary Brophy and Glenn Labhart have all started in the secondary.

The Wildcats plan to pass, and sophomore John Mays is the slinger, backed up by Dean Low. The wide receivers will come from Cleotha Montgomery, Ricky Felts, Jim Harmon and Tim Purnell, with Kirby Jones at tight end. Kelly Kent, Alex Davis and Bay Crawley are the running backs. Roy Carroll, Tommy Smith, Billy Curbo and Greg Newman are veterans in the line.

ANGELO STATE—Graduation wiped out the Angelo team that posted a 5-5-1 record last year, leaving only four returning starters. Coach Jim Hess will be relying heavily on freshmen and transfers, but does have standout veterans in the backfield.

Jerry Aldrige (215) at tailback rushed for 584 yards as a part-time starter last season. He'll team with fullback Marvin Williams (200). Either Gary Lacy (165) or Mark Embry (injured last year) will be at quarterback. A solid veteran among the question marks in the line is tight end Randall White (220).

Defensive back Wylie Turner had 144 yards in interception returns and averaged 28.8 yards on kickoff runbacks in 1976 and adds class to the defense. Other quality defenders include ends J.E. Johnson (210) and Tim Clark (220) and linebacker Kelvin Smith (230).

S.F. AUSTIN—Charles Simmons' Lumberjacks should chop their way out of the conference cellar and improve on a 1-9-1 record behind an improved offense.

Tackles Steve Cochran (230) and Charles Farrell (230), guards Randy Courtney (223) and Kipper Dorsey and center Larry Scholtz (221) form a good, veteran offensive line. Ferrell is outstanding. Andy Wilkins (220) is the tight end, with Carl Medley split wide. Tailback Bobby Mitchell (195) is big and fast. Quarterback Herby Baker, fullback Steve Robertson (202) and flanker Robert Barnes fill out the backfield.

The defense will be strong up the middle with nose guard Ronald Haynes (235) and linebacker Hughes Stanley (240). Lloyd Langston (240) and Mark Jones (251) are the tackles, while Randy Kleine (215) and Jimmy Dickinson will help at end or linebacker. Richard Gaines, Scott Aurich, Brian Williams (188) and Tony Treadwell make up the secondary.

SAM HOUSTON STATE—The Bearkats return 11 starters on defense (out of 37 lettermen) but must make quick repairs to a depleted offensive lineup if they are to rise above last year's 3-5-1 record.

The defensive strength begins with a pair of outstanding linebackers, Stanley Blinka (6-3, 237) and Charles Stanley (218) who would make any coach happy. There is size in the defensive line with tackles Rick Henderson (270) and Tony Rios (250) and ends Kurt Walker (240) and Richard Tharp

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By Bill Connors

Veteran Sports Editor Bill Connors of the Tulsa World has been named the Sports Writer of the year five times in the Sooner State.

Big Eight and The Valley

OKLAHOMA TOPS COLORADO AS FIVE OTHERS BATTLE FOR THIRD SPOT

PREDICTIONS

Big Eight

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Oklahoma | 5. Oklahoma State |
| 2. Colorado | 6. Missouri |
| 3. Nebraska | 7. Kansas |
| 4. Iowa State | 8. Kansas State |

The Valley

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tulsa | 5. Southern Illinois |
| 2. West Texas State | 6. Drake |
| 3. New Mexico State | 7. Indiana State |
| 4. Wichita State | |

The seniors who populate Big Eight Conference football teams in 1977 were in kindergarten the last time Oklahoma or Nebraska did not win or share the conference championship. That was 1961, when Colorado won one of only three (Missouri won the other two) crowns in 33 years to elude the midlands monarchs.

Oklahoma has won 18 of those championships outright and shared five others, including the last two. For those who look for trends, the 1976 race might offer hope to the other members. Nebraska's pre-season favorites finished in a disappointing tie with Iowa State for fourth, and Oklahoma needed a November surge to salvage a three-way tie for first with Colorado and Oklahoma State.

Could it be that a new era is about to begin? Yes and no.

Yes, the Oklahoma-Nebraska domination of the race for the championship may change. But, no, there should not be a stranger on the throne.

Nebraska is rebuilding, apparently with less talent than usual, and does not look like a championship contender. Oklahoma looks like, well . . . Oklahoma.

Oklahoma came out of last season's regrouping with a sophomore-junior team that may be a year away from peaking as a bonafide threat for the mythical national championship, but qualified to be the Big Eight's runaway favorite in 1977.

The Sooners return 18 starters, plus their kickers. An extraordinary group of running backs for their Wishbone places the Sooners a level above Colorado, and perhaps out of reach for the other conference teams.

Colorado, which defeated Oklahoma last year, may match the Sooners in linemen, linebackers and defensive backs. But Colorado is counting on inexperienced running backs. Oklahoma's running backs

are experienced, big and very fast. The Sooners have at least five 200-pound types with breakaway speed.

Behind Colorado, the field appears to be tightly-bunched with every team except Kansas State capable of finishing from third to seventh.

In the Valley Conference, which has three new coaches and two new members, Tulsa is expected to face an inspired challenge from West Texas to retain the championship the Hurricane has won or shared for four straight years.

West Texas returns the heart of a team that tied Tulsa in last year's season finale, to force the Hurricane to share the championship with New Mexico State.

Tulsa and West Texas have new coaches. John Cooper, assistant at Kentucky, became coach at Tulsa when F.A. Dry went to Texas Christian. Bill Yung, assistant at Baylor, replaced Gene Mayfield at West Texas. The Valley's third new coach is Drake's Chuck Shelton, elevated from defensive coordinator when Jack Wallace resigned.

Cooper inherited a team that failed to win any of its last three games in an embarrassing skid climaxing with a loss to McNeese in the Independence Bowl. But four of the 10 returning starters were all-conference and will be the backbone of a new look. Cooper junked the twin-veer offense in favor of the more conservative Slot-I, and placed more emphasis on defense.

Yung also installed the Slot-I, at the expense of the Wishbone, at West Texas, where he inherited three of the Valley's top four rushers. Shelton plans to shift Drake's gears, from passing to a balanced offense.

There were no coaching changes in the Big Eight, which in 1976 had its most competitive race ever. Going into the final round of games, five teams were tied for first.

Colorado qualified as the conference's championship representative to the Orange Bowl by defeating Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, the other tri-champions, at mid-season. But the Buffs staggered to the wire and were thumped by Ohio State in the Orange Bowl.

Oklahoma out-classed Wyoming in the Fiesta Bowl; Oklahoma State routed Brigham Young in the Tangerine Bowl, and Nebraska shaded Texas Tech in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl.

It was an enriching year for the Big Eight. Exclu-

But he completed only three passes, none in six straight games and had no attempts in three games.

The one-time schoolboy halfback was so lacking in passing basics he was sheltered, until he could go through a pressure-free spring practice. It was Lott's first extensive practice on passing. He has a strong arm, and his ability to make overloaded defenses respect his passes is the only reservation about Oklahoma's offense.

Lott will be surrounded by breakaway threats. Fullback Kenny King is, like Lott, a former halfback who weighs 200 and has 4.5 speed, and was sixth in Big Eight rushing with 791 yards and 5.6 average. Halfback Elvis Peacock is coming off a hot '76 finish. The other halfback will be Billy Sims, much heralded sophomore who was injured last year, or Jimmy Rogers, who started ahead of Sims in the spring, or Freddie Nixon, fastest of all the Wishbone rockets (4.4) who gained 20 pounds during the off season, to 193, and had an exciting spring.

They will run behind a 250-pound line that returns five starters, led by deluxe guards Greg Roberts and Jaime Melendez. Tackle Karl Baldischwiler, center Jody Farthing and tight end Victor Hicks are solid, and the other tackle will be either Sam Claphan or Louis Cubre, each huge and capable. Junior college transfer Bobby Kimball will start at split end if Steve Rhodes, last year's starter, is switched to the defensive backfield.

The player who has the best chance to become a superstar and who holds the key to defensive improvement is nose guard Reggie Kinlaw. As a 1976 sophomore, Kinlaw (230) appeared to be headed for the same pedestal as his Selmon (Lucious and Dewey) predecessors. But he was injured against Colorado, underwent knee surgery and missed the last four games and spring practice. He has been declared fit.

The defense is also tying its improvement hopes to George Cumby, 212-pound sophomore fullback who was moved to linebacker, where his speed (4.5) is needed to complement all-conference Daryl Hunt. Phil Tabor and either Richard Murray or Dave Hudgens will be the tackles. All have started. End Greg Sellmyer is in a race with the calendar to recover from knee surgery. If he does not make it the starter will probably be Barry Burget. Like Mike Joyce, the other starting end, Burget is a sophomore and former running back.

The secondary will have 4.5 speed at every position. Zac Henderson, all-conference and three-year starter, is the free safety; cornerbacks Bud Hebert and Terry Peters are returning starters, and Rhodes may be the strong safety, unless Hebert is moved there to permit sophomore Darrol Ray, the team's most versatile athlete, to start at cornerback.

COLORADO—Coach Bill Mallory was disappointed and puzzled by the Buffs' (8-4, 5-2) floundering in late season. They appeared to be the coming team, but lost to Missouri, barely beat Kansas State and were spanked by Ohio State. The 14 returning starters were treated to a rough spring, which produced one significant development: Quarterback Jeff



RUBEN VAUGHAN (75), Colorado's mammoth 261-pound defensive tackle, is rated one of Big 8's best linemen.

Knapple "improved by 25 per cent," Mallory said.

Mallory's power-I formation depends on a work-horse tailback. The junior college transfer who was recruited for the job and came with blue chip credentials, Eddie Walker, suffered a knee (surgery) injury, missed most of spring practice and is a question mark. In Walker's absence, another junior college transfer, Mike Kozlowski, became the starter. But at 182, he is smaller than Mallory prefers. An alternating tailback system, perhaps including a freshman, is possible. The fullback will be sophomore Mike Holmes.

Otherwise, the Buffs seem set. Their offensive line is proven except at tight end. Leon White, 1975 starting tackle who was sidelined by an injury last year, moves to center and will be flanked by tackles Matt Miller and Stan Brock and guards Dave Griffin and Steve Hakes. Steve Gaunty returns at split end.

Colorado's defense boasts several all-star possibilities. Tackle Ruben Vaughan (261) is considered by some to be the Big Eight's best lineman. Nose guard Laval Short, ends Stuart Walker and Randy Westendorf and linebackers Brian Cabral, second all-conference, and Tom Perry, whose size (232) and speed (4.6) excite pro scouts, assure qualified companions for Vaughan.

The recovery of free safety Tom Tesone, sidelined last year by knee surgery, bolsters a secondary that returns strong safety Mark Haynes and cornerbacks Mike Davis and Odis McKinney.

NEBRASKA—The biggest rebuilding project in 10 years at Lincoln began in spring practice with a shakedown tone. Seven of 10 returning starters lost their jobs, at least temporarily, in search for spark that was missing last year (9-3-1, 4-3).

A new-look defense, with more emphasis on aggressiveness, will be smaller than desired, but quick. The offense, with a capable line and more speed than in recent years, sputtered in the spring when none of the five quarterbacks who were alternated came to the front. Randy Garcia, highly regarded

OKLAHOMA STATE—Besides Terry Miller, the Cowboys (9-3, 5-2) return two of the Big Eight's best players in Daria Butler, all-conference defensive end who may move to linebacker, and linebacker John Corker, defensive newcomer of the year in '76 when he was a 17-year-old freshman.

But they are surrounded by the league's most shallow squad. Most of the linemen are inexperienced. Most of the reserves are expected to be freshmen. But they are imposing specimens.

The offensive line averages 275, and is as green as it is massive. The lineup: Tackles Milton Hardaway, the league's biggest player (6-9, 324), and Jim Clark (6-7, 250); guards Reggie Hall (6-4, 260) and Craig Simmons (6-4, 262) and center Dave Monroe (6-3, 245). Only Simmons ever started. Tight end Steve Stephens is a converted fullback; Clark is a sophomore wrestler; Hall a junior college transfer, and Monroe a converted tackle.

The otherwise razor-thin Cowboys have surprising depth at quarterback, where Harold Bailey was a part-time starter last year, but will be challenged by spring discovery Randy Stephenson. Scott Burk, a part-time starter in 1974 and '75 before being sidelined last year with a broken wrist, will also be a threat if he does not sign a pro baseball contract.

The Cowboys have speed and experience at the other skilled positions. Miller's running mate in the twin-veer will be Skip Taylor, or Farland Dindy, if he makes up enough summer school credits to become eligible. Gerald Bain and Chip Latham are fast split receivers.

Jim Stanley, Big Eight coach of the year in '76, thinks the defense can be comparable to last year, despite key losses. Much depends on gifted sophomore tackles Mike Robinson and Billy Wells. Chris Dawson, starting tackle last year, moved to nose guard. Mike Edwards, who has impressive speed, is counted on to fill one of two holes at end.

The secondary returns three starters in free safety Gary Irions, cornerback Willie Lester and strong safety Peter Coppola.

After having league's best kickers (four-time punting champion Cliff Parsley and place-kicker Abby Daigle) for four years, Cowboys think they

have adequate place kicker in Craig Johnson but may have to depend on freshman punter.

MISSOURI—A giant-killing offense graduated its best passer and best runner and most of a superb line. But if quarterback Pete Woods is fit, the Tigers may have the potential to equal or surpass their potent, erratic form of last year (6-5, 3-4).

Woods is a gifted athlete who directed an upset of Ohio State while Steve Pisarkiewicz was injured. Woods, a powerful option runner who completed 45 per cent of his passes, bypassed baseball (he is one of the Big Eight's best pitchers) to participate in spring practice. His reward was a knee injury the first week. It did not require surgery, but caused anxiety. If Woods is not impaired, the Tigers will have the conference's best quarterback. If he is impaired, they may have to depend on freshmen quarterbacks.

Al Onofrio, dean of Big Eight coaches who survived an alumni attack with a new contract, hopes to maintain some semblance of the passing attack that toppled Southern California and Nebraska. He returns the league's two best receivers: Slotback Joe Stewart (45 receptions, 834 yards and five touchdowns) and split end Leo Lewis (30, 394 and six TDs). Lewis, coming off ankle surgery, also led the league in punt returns for the second staright year.

Burly fullback Rich Dansill (10th in rushing with 669 yards and 5.4 average) returns and the tailback corps has a solid trio in Dean Leibson, last year's backup, or Earl Gant, who came off the jayvee ranks to answer an emergency against Oklahoma and was compelling, and speedy David Newman.

Tackle James Taylor (260) the league's best offensive line man, is the only returnee from a remarkable group that blocked as well for running as it pass protected. Center Pete Allard and guard Mark Jones are the only sure starters for the other five spots. Kellen Winslow should be one of the Big Eight's best tight ends.

Onofrio hopes Tigers won't have to score as much, following a spring overhaul of a defense that was porous against running. The '76 line had less size and more bad knees than any in the conference. Tackle

LEO LEWIS (left), Missouri split end, caught 30 passes for 394 yards and six TDs last season, CHRIS GARLICH (center) star linebacker who was in on 84 tackles and JAMES TAYLOR (right) led the offensive line charge at tackle position.



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half the secondary and much of the offensive line.

Oddly, the backfield is the least of Dempsey's worries. Gary Linton (202 with 4.5 speed) is viewed as a capable replacement for Herrera and fullback Bernell Quinn impressed as a reserve. Last year's alternating quarterbacks, Bob Collins and Reginald Evans, return. Tight end Greg Warren leads an experienced cast of receivers.

Both lines are full of question marks, but the linebacking might be the league's best if Joe Barwinski regains form after ankle and wrist operations, and teams with Dan Brown. Ron Geels is the ace of an adequate secondary.

DRAKE—The 10 teams that defeated the Bulldogs (1-10, 1-3) averaged 46 points. New Coach Chuck Shelton seeks to close some of the leaks with improvement from big, veteran linemen such as nose guard David Glover (241) and tackle Coley Calhoun (278) and junior college transfer Dana Nelson (270). If they reach level of end Matt Henry, Bulldogs should not be so timid.

Quarterback Dan Dodd and tailback Wayne Williams (5-8, 180) surfaced in the spring to give an otherwise experienced offense its foremost needs in a bid for run-pass balance. The line returns five starters, led by all-conference center Al Byers.

INDIANA STATE—Coach Tom Harp has a suspect offense and an experienced defense for the Sycamores' Valley debut. The offense could improve sig-

nificantly if Vincent Allen, who rushed for 3309 yards in three years before being disabled, is able to play. But he is doubtful.

Even without Allen and an all-new offensive line, Sycamores (3-7) hope to stay in Wishbone. Quarterback Pete McCoy and halfback D.A. Daniels and split end Mike Brantley will be key figures.

Linebacker Marty Murray, end Mark Kupets and safety Bruce Montagner are best of 10 returning starters on defense.

BRUCE MONTAINER (12) of Indiana State was NCAA's fifth best kickoff returner in 1976 with 25.7 average.



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Power Action Points

pro football

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	PR	OR	DP	REF	HT
Maximum Ratings	140	67	49	5	3

Eastern Division

Dallas Cowboys	146	63	47	4	3
Washington Redskins	139	52	41	2	3
St. Louis Cardinals	140	56	39	4	3
New York Giants	128	48	67	1	3
Philadelphia Eagles	128	44	37	2	3

college football

	PR	OR	DP	REF	HT
A. T. T.	70	15	12	2	2
A. T. T.	115	43	19	5	3
A. T. T.	77	20	10	2	2
A. T. T.	86	27	20	3	2
A. T. T.	92	30	13	5	2
A. T. T.	83	35	20	4	3
A. T. T.	88	29	10	2	1
A. T. T.	88	26	18	3	2
A. T. T.	84	41	25	3	2
A. T. T.	86	28	17	3	2
A. T. T.	84	35	18	3	2
A. T. T.	80	20	17	2	2
A. T. T.	80	27	17	4	2
A. T. T.	70	18	20	2	1

L.A. Miami	0 0 14 17 - 31	7 7 7 7 - 28
LA	23	21
Rush. yd.	41-167	42-219
Pass. yd.	426	100
Ret yd.	39	5
Passes	17-29-1	
Punts		

Michigan* (-28) over Illinois
The Wolverines will be taking out all their frustrations
against the poor Illini.
PAP ESTIMATED FINAL SCORE
MICHIGAN 37 ILLINOIS 0

Kansas City (+14½) over Oakland
(The reasoning behind this pick is simple. The Chiefs
have the ball as well as the Raiders, but Oakland did
not cover. That's the way it will go in this one too
PAP ESTIMATED FINAL SCORE
KANSAS CITY 10

Pittsburgh* (-10) over Miami
Both teams are playing much better than they had
been playing, and both teams have their defenses to thank
for it. All A. T. T. has back with the Dolphins, and their
defense is still being held by the Pats to three
points, and the Jets to seven. The Steelers rediscov-
ered their defense in the game with the Colts, San Diego
and Kansas City. Both teams smell a wild card berth, and
it should be a good one.
PAP ESTIMATED FINAL SCORE
PITTSBURGH 17 MIAMI 6

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By Dwight Chapin

Talented young writer Dwight Chapin, formerly with Los Angeles Times, and now columnist for the San Francisco Examiner, gives lowdown on West Coast football.

West Coast

USC-UCLA NO CINCH AS WASHINGTON MAKES POWERFUL BID FOR TITLE

PREDICTIONS

Pacific 8

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Southern California | 5. California |
| 2. UCLA | 6. Washington State |
| 3. Washington | 7. Oregon State |
| 4. Stanford | 8. Oregon |

Pacific Coast AA

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. San Jose State | 4. Cal. State Fullerton |
| 2. Fresno State | 5. U. of Pacific |
| 3. Long Beach State | |

Independents

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. San Diego State | 5. Cal Lutheran |
| 2. Portland State | 6. Cal State L.A. |
| 3. Santa Clara | 7. St. Mary's |
| 4. Nevada (Reno) | |

California Col. AA

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cal Poly (Obispo) | 3. Cal Poly (Pomona) |
| 2. Cal St. Northridge | |

Southern California IAC

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Redlands | 4. Whittier |
| 2. La Verne | 5. Claremont-Mudd |
| 3. Occidental | 6. Pomona |

Far Western

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. UC Davis | 4. San Francisco St. |
| 2. Humboldt State | 5. Hayward State |
| 3. Chico State | 6. Sacramento State |

A while back, I got a letter questioning my sanity and, as I recall, my parentage, for "always" picking the Pacific 8's four Northwest schools so low in the pre-season predictions.

I'm not sure if it helped soothe the feelings of the distressed party but I told him I grew up a couple of long passes from Washington State and had covered Washington, Oregon and Oregon State on a more-or-less regular basis for other newspapers before I arrived at the Los Angeles Times. Some of my best friends wear rain hats and winter coats.

I tried—I'm not sure how successfully—to point out to my correspondent that since Jim Owens' heyday at Washington almost 20 years ago and a flurry by Dee Andros at Oregon State in the late 1960s, the Northwest schools simply haven't been very

competitive with the four down south. (In fact, nobody has been consistently competitive with USC and UCLA for years).

But you know, things seem to be changing. They really do. It may be only a ruse, thrown up to trap pre-season prognosticators. But it appears Don James—respected by football men up and down the Pacific Coast—may have a real shot at the championship. This year's Washington team might look like one of those old "Purple Gangs" that beat up on people.

Washington State and Oregon both have new coaches but Warren Powers of the Cougars has a thunder-and-lightning offense that will entertain a lot of people even if it doesn't win a lot of games . . . and Rich Brooks of the Ducks is coolly, candidly and, it seems, correctly, going about rebuilding a program that hasn't escaped the Northwest goo for years.

Craig Fertig of Oregon State didn't turn the world around last season but he won two more games than his former boss—John McKay of Tampa Bay—despite running General Hospital in Corvallis with an incredible series of injuries much of the season. He's smart, and he's coming.

And, for once, the giants of the Southland, mighty USC and UCLA, may have a few troubles. USC looks a little thin at some positions. That's right. USC. The former hordes of Troy. UCLA is rebuilding a large part of its blitzing veer offense, and that can sometimes take awhile.

The scouts will tell you UCLA and Washington had the big recruiting years. But then California got the top-rated passer in junior college history. And Stanford got a coach—Bill Walsh—who off his illustrious professional track record might be beating everybody before long.

You may still see a few of those UCLA 62, Washington State 3 scores but the Pacific 8 seems to be evening up in football—just as it is in basketball, where one of these years UCLA is going to lose a championship.

Listen to Craig Fertig for a moment:

"Overall, I think we have the best conference from top to bottom in the 16 years I have been associated with the league."

Fertig saw the Pac-8 as a player at USC, then as a McKay assistant. Now he's a Northlander who picks UCLA to upset the Trojans in 1977.

(6-0, 185); Carter Hartwig (6-0, 195) and transfer Herb Ward (6-0, 175), with senior Mike Carey (6-1, 202) and transfer Willie Crawford (6-0, 175 and a first-team JC All-America) the leaders for the other safety position.

Junior Art Sorce and sophomore Rob Kerr will have a tough time matching talented kicker Glen Walker, who had just 11 of 57 punts run back, for only five yards, and kicked 10 field goals.

Robinson urges caution—and it seems justified—when he assesses his 1977 team. "We feel we've got good replacements at most positions," he says, "but the key to our season is how quickly the new people become accomplished players. This team is going to have to earn its own reputation."

UCLA—Nobody figured first-year head coach Terry Donahue to go 9-2-1 and fall just a game short of the Rose Bowl—except maybe Donahue himself. He knew what kind of talent he had and he knows what kind of talent—particularly on offense—he's losing this year. Gone are running back Wendell Tyler, the school's all-time leading rusher; wide receiver Wally Henry; four starting interior linemen and tight end Rick Walker. But the key loss may be quarterback Jeff Dankworth, who ran the Bruins' veer T offense as beautifully as John Sciarra had. How well the Bruins do this season depends in great measure on how well returnees Steve Bukich—who hasn't yet looked too comfortable with the veer—and reserve Rick Bashore, or perhaps touted freshman Craig Landis (6-2, 200), handle the formation.

Freshmen, in fact, could have an unusually important effect as the Bruins attempt to make a transition without the usual "rebuilding" stage. Just about everyone agrees UCLA recruited well. Some are saying they got the nation's best crop of freshmen, players such as defensive lineman Billy Don Jackson (6-4, 242), reportedly a young Lucious Selmon; running back Freeman McNeil (6-0, 190); wide receiver Fred Brockington (6-3, 190); tight end-linebacker Scott Westering (6-3, 217); linebacker Brad Plemons (6-3, 210) and defensive lineman John Tautolo (6-4, 245). Perhaps conservatively, Donahue thinks as many as seven of the rookies could see considerable action.

Offensively, Donahue hopes to further balance his attack, throwing a little more off the veer to wide receivers Homer Butler (6-2, 184); James Sarpy (6-1, 183) and Severn Reece (6-0, 174), and tight ends Don Pederson (6-3, 234); Kent Brisbin (6-3½, 220) and transfer Ronnie DeBose (6-5, 220). A major question is the line, where the only starter back is tackle Gus Coppens (6-6½, 259). Junior Bruce Davis (6-6, 250) was switched from defensive nose guard to offensive tackle in the spring. Other candidates are junior Jim Main (6-3, 242) and junior Don Woolley (6-4½, 255) at tackles; Bryce Adkins (6-2, 225) and Randy Grounds (6-5, 250) at guards, and Ron Wollard (6-2½, 232) at center. Promising JC center Scott Reid (6-0½, 230) moves in. They'll be trying to fill in for players such as Keith Eck, Mitch Kahn, Greg Taylor and Rob Kezirian.

In the backfield, the Bruins have a tremendous performer in Theotis (Big Foot) Brown, who rushed

for 1092 yards, and Tyler's backup, Olympic hurdler James Owens (5-11, 173) returns, along with reserve Ernie Saenz (6-2, 193).

The defense is loaded with veterans, and has added a tough new linebacker, transfer Marvin Morris (5-10, 228). Back are All-America Jerry Robinson (6-3, 208) and Raymond Bell (6-3, 215) at inside linebackers; Steve Tetrick (5-11, 214) at nose guard; Manu Tuiaosopo (6-3, 240), whom the coaches expect to have a superior season, at tackle; Frank Stephens (6-2, 205) at outside linebacker; Levi Armstrong (6-2, 180) at left cornerback, and Pat Schmidt (6-2, 181) at safety. Gone are All-America safetyman Oscar (Dr. Death) Edwards; right corner Harold Hardin, outside linebacker Raymond Burks and left tackle Pete Pele.

The leading candidates for the open spots among returnees are converted nose guard Dave Morton (6-3, 239) and sophomore Steve Sosnowski (6-6, 255) at tackle; letterman Ken Walker (6-2, 207) and John Fowler (6-4, 225) at outside linebacker; red-shirt Bobby Hosea (6-1, 178) and sophomore Brian Baggott (6-0, 172) at cornerback, and utility man Johnny Lynn (6-0, 185) at safety.

The kicker, burly Frank Corral (6-1, 236) not only is one of the best in the league; he's one of the best in the nation. Last season, Corral averaged 44.1 yards per punt, and set a school record with a 55-yard field goal.

Despite the fact Donahue has a year's experience, the Bruins have more question marks than they did a year ago, especially whether they can find a man to run the veer offense capably, and a line to open the holes. But they have the proven defense they didn't have last season.

In a league that appears more balanced than last season's—if not as good at the top—that could be enough to carry UCLA to its second championship in three years.

WASHINGTON—Slowly, rather quietly, Don James has been bringing the Huskies back to where they used to be—one of the toughest teams in the Pacific 8. Almost without question, James' 1977 team will be the best of the four Northwest entries, and might challenge for the championship.

The Huskies have one of the nation's top 1-2 punches at tailback in slick senior Ronnie Rowland (6-2, 209) and quick sophomore Joe Steele (6-4, 197). Rowland rushed for 1002 yards (becoming only the second Husky ever to top 1000) and Steele, despite injuries, picked up 421, scoring seven touchdowns. They'll be working with quarterback Warren Moon, already the fifth-leading passer in Washington history. He completed 81 of 175 passes last season, for 1106 yards. Sophomore backup Tom Flick (6-3, 185) came on strong at the end of 1976. James loses giant fullback Robin Earl and his 963 yards but has three experienced men to contend for that position—juniors Rob Smith (6-0, 206) and Greg Martin (5-10, 185) and sophomore Ron Gipson (6-1, 205).

Starting wide receivers Scott Phillips and Leon Garrett both graduated but Pacific-8 hurdle champion Robert (Spider) Gaines, who averaged 22.3

yards a catch in '76 and sophomore Michael Bean (5-11, 175) are back, and will be joined by redshirt Gary Briggs (5-10, 176); Marvin Porter and converted defensive back Keith Richardson (5-10, 182). Depth is a concern at tight end, where Don Wardlow is gone. Two-year letterman Scott Greenwood (6-3, 223) should step in, although Rudy Moraga (6-3, 218), Tom Semke and Rick Guenther will test him.

An outstanding center, honors candidate Blair Bush (6-3, 239) anchors the offensive line and will be joined by two returning starters—guard Jeff Toews (6-3, 263) and tackle Roger Westlund (6-4, 248). Bidding to take over at one tackle spot for Carl VanValkenberg is Joe Sanford (6-5, 259), a starter in pre-season last year until he was injured, and vying for Dave Stromswold's guard position are four experienced men—Steve Bauer (6-3, 220); Phil Foreman (6-2, 221); Marshall Cromer (6-2, 223) and Terry Sherwood (6-4, 225).

Gone from the defense are All-Coast nose guard Charles Jackson; inside linebacker Mike Baldassin, outside linebacker Rob Gehring and defensive tackle Kevin Richardson. Senior Dave Browning (6-4, 239) returns at one tackle and should pair with sophomore Doug Martin (6-3, 235), who shared playing time with Richardson. Stan Walderhaug (6-3, 235), who's played five defensive positions, will get first crack at replacing Jackson, with Cliff Bethea (5-11, 226) and Scot Long (6-2, 220) in reserve. There's outstanding speed in outside linebackers Brett Gagliardi (6-4, 195) and Antowaine Richardson (6-1, 182), and Mike Rohrbach (6-1, 217) is back after an injury. Junior Mike Jackson (6-0, 215) returns at one inside linebacking position, with lettermen Willy Galoia (6-1, 225) and Bruce Harrell (6-0, 215) battling for Baldassin's spot.

Two-year letterman Nesby Glasgow (5-10, 180) is back at one corner and part-time starters Wayne Moses (5-9, 176) and Lance Theoudele (6-1, 190) return at the other. The safetymen—Kyle Heinrich (6-0, 180) and John Edwards (6-2, 180)—both are all-star candidates, and will get help from letterman Wayne Roche (5-10, 181).

The Huskies, who lost Don Feleay, are looking for a new punter among sophomores Jim Pence and Brian Moreland and redshirt Dario Casarino. But two excellent placekickers—Steve Robbins and Moreland—return. Robbins (21 field goals, 71 PATs) is the fifth leading scorer in Washington history.

The Huskies had a big recruiting year, picking up five prep All-Americans, including lineman Curt Marsh (6-6, 260) and running back-linebacker Tous-saint Tyler (6-2, 210). "We'll be much improved," James says after a 5-6 season. "I believe we're a team that's going to have to be reckoned with."

STANFORD—How much can Bill Walsh do in one year? That seems to be the most serious question as Walsh, who had a reputation as one of football's most inventive minds in 10 years as a pro assistant, moves to the college ranks. The man who developed the NFL's top-rated passing offense—and quarterback Ken Anderson—at Cincinnati, will be working with one of the nation's top college quarterbacks,

Guy Benjamin. Last season, Benjamin ranked second nationally in passing and fifth in total offense. He completed 170 of 295 passes for 1982 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Star receiver Tony Hill is gone but three excellent catchers are back in Bill Kellar (34 receptions for 447 yards); James Lofton and Vince Mulroy, and the tight ends, Mark Hoaglin (6-8, 249) and Marty Smith (6-6, 225) are good ones. There are two new quality receivers from the JC ranks, too, Kerry Schimpf (6-2, 180) and tight end Mitch Pleis (6-4, 220), and a good freshman, Larry Harris. The passing attack thus should be formidable.

Running back is less certain, since the top two ground gainers, Don Stevenson and Ron Inge, have graduated. Walsh will look first at junior fullback Phil Francis (6-1, 207) and senior halfback Gary Lynn (5-10, 185). Lettermen John Finley and Billie Anderson and sophomore Gordon Banks could contend and any of three freshmen—All-America Robbie Chapman; Darrin Nelson and Todd Wasik—could break in.

The Cardinals must replace three men in the offensive line, including All-Coast guard Alex Karakozoff, but on hand are 6-6, 255-pound tackle Gordon King, an excellent pro prospect; guard Mark Hill (6-4, 250), and part-time regular Dan McCann (6-3, 236), the likely starter at center. Transfers Gene Engle (6-5, 250) and Jim Gstettenbauer (6-3, 241) and redshirt Andre Hines (6-6, 260) are top prospects at the other tackle spot; lettermen Brent Saylor (6-5, 260) and George Kerekes (6-3, 248) and transfer Jim Stephens (6-3, 235) will vie for the other guard spot. Walsh is particularly high on Engle.

The defensive line needs work. All-America end Duncan McColl and veteran tackle John Harris both graduated, and starting tackle Jack Moller has given up football. Three alternating starters—ends Bruce Barker (6-5, 236) and Chuck Evans (6-4, 236) and tackle Geoff Kiebertz (6-4, 238)—are back, but will be pushed by Steve Howe (6-3, 230) and Andy Kolesnikow (6-3, 245) and perhaps freshman Brian Holloway (6-6, 250). Junior Gordy Ceresino, who averaged 15 tackles a game, could be the country's best middle linebacker. He's 6-2 and 220. Ray Cardinali (6-0, 221) will start his third season as an outside linebacker, with junior Terry Rennaker (6-6, 215) the other tentative starter. JC transfers Andy Sickmeier (6-2, 220) and Tony Mitre will get a long look—and Walsh thinks he has "the country's best" crop of freshman linebackers in Steve Budinger, Tom Hall, Bo Boxold, Craig Zelmer and Milt McColl (Duncan's brother).

Junior halfbacks Larry Reynolds (5-11, 180) and Savann Thompson (6-2, 189) and safety Ralph Phillips (6-1, 191) all are returning starters. Two 1976 redshirts—sophomores Keith Burcham and Kent Stalwick—are the leading candidates to replace All-Coast safety Rich Waters. Two-time letterman John Pigott and freshman Dean Sivara and John Werstler could figure somewhere in the secondary.

Mike Michel leaves a big void at both placekicker and punter. Freshman Ken Naber may be the punter; junior Roger May, up from the jayvees, the place-

White said. "Once we settle with a quarterback, the pieces will fit together. Our defense should take a lot of pressure off our offense. This is the type of team balance I've been attempting to build at Cal. I think we now have that kind of team."

WASHINGTON STATE—Jackie Sherrill stayed just long enough (one season) to build a fine passing offense, then left for Pitt and turned things over to Warren Powers, the former Oakland Raider player and Nebraska assistant coach. He has 49 lettermen—19 of those starters—but the Cougars won just 3 of 11 games and will have to develop a better defense if they're going to beat the better teams.

The offense looks potent. Jack (The Throwin' Samoan) Thompson is one of the country's best quarterbacks. As a sophomore, he broke five Pacific 8 records, completing 209 passes for 2762 yards and 20 touchdowns. The 6-3, 215-pound Thompson will have his favorite receiver, wide receiver Mike Levenseller (67 catches for 1124 yards, a league record) back, along with flanker Brian Kelly (44 catches, 746 yards), and they'll be joined by sprinter Tyrone Gray (6-2, 195), who sat out last season. Running back Dan Doornink caught 53 passes for 469 yards, in addition to rushing for 422, and he scored 54 points. Junior Harold Gillum (5-8, 180) returns at the other running back spot, along with speedy Mike Washington (6-0, 180), hurt much of last season. They'll be the key men in Powers' slot I and pro I offenses, along with tight ends Eason Ramson (6-2, 230); Ron Bull (6-5, 220) and JC transfer Gus Hobus (6-4, 220).

The offensive line is minus only tackle Bob Hill and center Jon DesPois. Back are guards Tom Larsen (6-3, 219) and Larry Finan (6-2, 248) and tackle Dave Lemke (6-3, 252). Junior Noel Barnes (6-4, 233) may move up at center; sophomore Steve Johnson (6-6, 240) at tackle. Mike Linker (6-6, 235) and Steve Jackson (6-2, 246) add line depth, along with transfer Mike Lemke (6-3, 230).

With Thompson—the nation's No. 2 passer and third best total offense man—running the show, the Cougars will score points. And they have back a fine pass defense unit. The question is whether they can stop the run. They held only Idaho under 22 points last season.

Ten defensive starters return but depth seems a problem both in the line and at linebacker. Veterans Mel Sanders (6-3, 200) and Tom Thompson (6-1, 202) are at the ends, with Hayward (Spud) Harris (6-4, 240) at one tackle; perhaps Terry Anderson (6-4, 230) at the other. Junior George Yarno (6-1, 213) played both tackle and nose guard last season but will move to middle guard in Powers' defense. He was in on 60 tackles, 43 of them unassisted. (His brother, John, was an All-America center at Idaho last season). Support will come from Dan Reardon (6-4, 215); Mark Chandless (6-2, 258); Gary Knight (6-3, 220) and Dave Brown (6-2, 210).

The linebackers should be junior Jeff Jonas (6-2, 210) and senior Dean Pedigo (6-1, 213), with Don Nevels (6-0, 207) and Raleigh Fletcher (5-11, 210) behind them.

The secondary is a proven one, led by senior cor-



GAVIN HEDRICK handles punting chores well for Washington St. Cougars.



JACK THOMPSON, WSU QB, set five Pac 8 passing marks during '76 season.

nerback Ken Greene (64 tackles, five interceptions) and senior monster man Don Schwartz (74 tackles). They'll be joined by two more seniors, cornerback Mark Patterson (6-2, 194) and safetyman John Troppman (6-0, 196) and there are lettermen behind each man, in Randy Simmons (165); Jack Brossman (190); Mike Snow (180) and John Dodds (180).

Kicking will be a strength, with punter Gavin Hedrick and place-kicker Chuck Diedrick. Hedrick had the second best average per punt in the conference (43.2 yards) after finishing fourth nationally the season before (44.7). His lifetime average for 164 kicks is 42.9. Diedrick (5-8, 187) set a school record of 43 straight points after touchdown last season and is also a capable field goal man.

Powers got a late recruiting start but has plenty of people back, plus a reputation for helping build good defensive teams. If he can do it quickly in Pullman, the Cougars can be a factor—or at least a spoiler—this season. But there may be times he wishes he could suit up assistant coach Rich Glover, the ex-Nebraska All-America.

OREGON STATE—Last season, first-year head coach Craig Fertig looked like a whirling dervish. This year, he looks more like his corpulent predecessor, Dee Andros, and he's hoping for some of the late 1960s success Andros had in Corvallis. Fertig says, "We're definitely ahead of where we were a year ago." That's true if for no other reason than there's little chance the Beavers will sustain as many injuries as they did in a long, 2-10 season in which the only real bright spot was an upset win over California.

Fertig is in the same dangerous position as several other Pacific 8 coaches—searching for a quarterback. Four men who started three games each before being hurt (Kyle Grossart, Jeff Kynaston, Dave White and Scott Richardson) all are back. White, a 6-1 senior, had the best statistics. They'll be throwing to a man Fertig thinks could be the league's best receiver, 6-1 junior Dwayne Hall, who caught 20 passes for 295 yards, and perhaps a fine new athlete, transfer Rob Emmons of Cal (unless Fertig

decides to use him at defensive back). The rest of the receiving talent is unproven but there is hope for Scott Coury and Duane James. Heading the running backs is 5-10, 205-pound junior James Fields (649 yards), but there's no proven I-formation fullback. Vying are letterman Byron Kellar (205); transfers Mark Moser (6-2, 227) and Rich Kahoonei (225) and freshman Duane Gerardi (6-3, 232).

The interior line is very solid. Senior Jim Walker (6-2, 246) is a high quality center and senior Larry Winkler (6-3½, 235) and sophomore Kevin Donaghue (6-3, 255) are excellent guards. Tackle was a weak spot last year but transfers Dave Rieber (6-5, 250), a first-team JC All-America, and Dan Schultz (6-4, 250) could solve the problem. Also back are Craig Spiegelberg (250) and Vern Ward (245). Red-shirt Terry Beck (6-3½, 222) will contest Dave Patapoff (6-2, 215) at tight end.

There are three starters on hand in a good front defensive four, including end Clarence Smithey (6-0, 218) and tackles Greg Marshall (6-3, 235) and Joel Malone (6-2, 235). The other end, replacing Dennis Boyd, should be whopping senior Jerry Wilkinson (6-9, 257). Marshall was voted top lineman last season. Transfer Tom Schillinger (6-2, 255) and frosh Nick Westerberg (6-6, 240) both could move in. Junior middle linebacker Kent Peyton (6-3½, 220) should be among the conference's best. Outside starters Bill Ford and Rob Nairne both have departed, however, so Gene Dales (210), Kent Howe (210), Robert Manor (196) and Andy Bardosi (200) will get a look.

The secondary was strong in 1976. Safetyman Jay Locey graduated but cornerback Kerry Justin (5-11, 175) has All-America potential. Emmons or sophomore Dan Wells (6-2½, 180) may work at one safety spot, with Tom Stevens (183), Jerome Williams (185) or Danne Cole (6-2, 200) at the other and Lenny Holmes (166) or Dave Horton (167) at the other corner. Stevens and Holmes both are returning starters.

Fertig has a reliable, long-distance place-kicker in Kieron Walford (7 of 16 field goals, 39 points) but is looking for a punter.

The Beavers, because they had so many injuries last season, have experience at a lot of positions and there are spots of strength—the interior offensive line; the defensive front; receiver Hall and defender Justin. But Fertig has depth problems in both lines; won't be certain for awhile at either quarterback or fullback, and must uncover some receivers to help Hall. All of that likely means the Beavers will have trouble getting out of the Pac 8's second division—at least this season.

OREGON—Rich Brooks has a ton of coaching experience under some of the country's best-known college and pro coaches. But what he might need more as he takes over the Oregon Ducks is the sense of humor of Mel Brooks. The Ducks haven't had a winning season since 1970, and don't figure to have one this season, although Brooks promises: "This team is going to get after people." Last year, USC (53-0); UCLA (46-0) and Notre Dame (41-0) got after them, and the rebuilding process won't be immediate.



LARRY WINKLER, senior guard, is solid blocker on Oregon State's line.

GREG MARSHALL (above R) was Oregon State's best defensive lineman in '76.



JIM WALKER, 6-2, 246, is a top-rate center for Oregon State's Beavers.

Brooks said in the spring that every position was "wide open."

He'll work hard to establish balance—mainly a sound running game—on offense. Senior quarterback Jack Henderson (1582 yards passing) may be turned into an option runner. He's 6-1, 190. Junior Rick Washut and freshman Dan Daly are behind him. Getting first look at running back will be Jim Johnson (356 yards rushing) and Dennis Bullock (179 yards, 4.3 average), but sophomores Jeff Wood and Gary Nair, a JC All-America who redshirted last year, are in the picture, too. Leading receiver Greg Bauer has graduated but back are Tom Cafferty (6-1, 181), who caught 21 passes for 358 yards, and Bill Vincent, 19 for 285. Letterman Jo Jo White, ineligible last year, could help. Dan Clark (6-5, 215) gets first look at tight end.

Two starters return in the offensive line, center Fred Quillan (6-5, 240) and guard Bill Hoffman (6-4, 250). Transfer Kevin Anderson (6-5, 235) has a chance to move right in. Others with line experience are Jon Gragg (6-4, 250); Pat McDougal (6-5, 250) and Pete Laughlin (6-6, 260), sidelined last year with a knee injury.

The defense, which was on the field too much last year because the offense couldn't sustain drives, retains starting tackles Rob Plath (6-0, 235) and Rudy Bryan (6-5, 235); end Mel Cook (6-4, 200); linebacker Bruce Beekley (6-2, 215) and backs Reggie Grant (5-10, 175) and Brian Rekofer (6-3, 190). Plath and Grant, both seniors, are players with all-conference ability.

Willy Robinson—are back in the secondary. Minor and Robinson were all-conference. Vince Petrucci is a top-notch kicker (all 28 PATs; 9 of 14 field goal attempts, including a 51-yarder.)

LONG BEACH ST.—The 49ers have a completely new coaching staff, headed by ex-Stanford assistant Dave Currey, and lose 16 of 22 starters. In addition, Long Beach will face its toughest schedule ever, so it will have to score a bundle of points with its pro-style passing game offense to approach last year's 8-3 record. Jim Freitas (6-2, 185), brother of pro quarterback Jesse, and redshirt Paul McGaffigan (6-2, 185) will run the offense, with Tim Cunningham (5-11, 205) and probably transfer Chuck Benbow (5-11, 205) at running backs. Part-time starters Maurice Jones and Dennis Byrd return at flanker; transfers Vernon Henry and Tony Maddocks are vying at split end. Jim McCluskey (6-6, 225) returns at tight end. The lone starter back in the offensive line is guard Mike Murphy (6-3, 235). JC transfer Jeff Lofgren (6-6, 250) should move in at one tackle, with one of two transfers, Chuck Butterfield (6-2, 220) or John Condrion (6-1, 224), at center.

The defensive nucleus is better, particularly at linebacker, where Dan Bunz (6-4, 230) is the anchor. Currey calls him "as good as any linebacker I've seen in seven years of coaching in the Pacific 8." He'll be paired inside with Mark Fata (5-11, 210), with Gary Greene (6-1, 215) at one outside position. Depth could be a problem in the line, where three starters depart. Transfer Phil Lombardo (6-2, 230) is a top tackle candidate. Senior strong safety Greg Barnes (6-2, 195) heads the secondary and transfer Wayne Douglas (6-1, 180) is likely to move in. Place-kicker-punter Woody Tressler (38.5 average on punts) returns.

CAL ST. FULLERTON—For the first time in his three-year tenure as head coach, Jim Colletto has experience and talent returning. The Titans have 32 lettermen back, including 15 starters, off a 3-7-1 team. Heading the list are all-PCAA players Floyd Lavender (5-11, 170) at defensive back; Lane Fralick (6-2, 235) at defensive end; Leonard King (6-2, 270) at offensive guard; Bruce Abraham (6-4, 235) at tight end; and Juan Carrillo (5-8, 160) at placekicker. Colletto thought Fralick was the Titans' best player last season, despite the presence of PCAA Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Ball, who has graduated.

Colletto is trying to find a quarterback to run his veer T offense and signed four men to challenge returnee Steve Martindale (6-4, 215). The best may be JC All-America Dale Bunn (6-0, 180) of Citrus, who passed for 957 yards and ran for 544. Transfer Mike Martin has impressed too. Artis Dixon (5-7, 170) returns at one running back and Marcus Williams (22 receptions for 379) is back at wide receiver. Bunn's ex-teammate, tailback Obie Graves (5-9, 170), will join him with the Titans, after gaining 1288 yards and All-America honors at Citrus. Starters Scott Borisoff (6-2, 245) and Jim Beranek (6-0, 243) and senior Ed Blevins (6-2, 240) joins Abraham and King in the offensive line. Defensively, the entire line is back, including Jim Criner (6-4, 260);



DEAN JONES, Fresno's QB, ran and passed for over 600 yards in 1976.



CHUCK SHEARN of Fresno State was an All-Coast pick at offensive guard.

Joe Jordan (6-4, 240); Graco Farrell (6-4, 220) and Bill Stuart (6-3, 190) but the linebackers are inexperienced. Eugene Moore (6-0, 185) started with Lavender at cornerback. The safeties may be Rob Manchester (6-0, 195) and Charles Edwards (6-0, 165).

PACIFIC—Chester Caddas is doing a major rebuilding job on his Tigers and it probably will take a season for him to get back into title contention after going 2-9 in 1976. Caddas is changing both his offense (from the veer T to the I) and his defense (from a 4-3 to a 5-2). The offense should be much better if fullback-tailback Bruce Gibson (6-0, 235) stays healthy. The punishing Gibson gained 758 yards—a 115-yard game average—before going out for the season with torn knee ligaments in the seventh game. But he's healthy now, and an All-America candidate. Seven of the team's eight top rushers return, including tailbacks Darwin Benjamin and Darryl Smith, and fullback Dale Williams, and Caddas has added three top JC runners, Mike Colton of Ventura (1108 yards and 21 touchdowns); Richard Phillips of Fresno (1111 yards) and Mel Cook of College of the Canyons (909 as a freshman; hurt last season). There are three candidates at quarterback, JC transfer Bruce Parker, who threw for 1807 yards and completed 60.9% of his passes; sophomore Steve Harden, coming off a knee injury, and redshirt Donnie Moore. The line—which may have three sophomore starters—is young, but big, averaging about 6-5 and 245.

Defensively, the Tigers were porous on pass defense, giving up 2293 yards to rival quarterbacks, and Caddas has recruited 10 new defensive backs. There's an experienced line returning, plus one of the best corps of linebackers on the Pacific Coast in Craig Colton, Randy Whited and sophomore Dallas Nelson, and redshirt Brad Vassar, who started as a freshman for UCLA's 1976 Rose Bowl team.

INDEPENDENTS

SAN DIEGO STATE—Again, playing a lot of teams from the league they used to belong to—the PCAA—the Aztecs should be the Far West's best independent, by a wide margin. They're pushing running back David (Deacon) Turner for the Heisman Trophy. He gained 982 yards last year despite missing all or part of five games with injuries. Turner, 5-11 and 207, has both speed and strength—and fullback Binky Benton (5-5½, 180) is back to block for him (Benton also ran for 600 yards). Coach Claude Gilbert, 35-7-2 over four seasons, has to find a quarterback among little-used senior Joe Davis; freshman Mark Halda; transfers Greg Roeszler and Chris Schaefer and redshirt Jeff Duva. Schaefer was a first-team JC All-America at Merced College, passing for 3092 yards.

Wide receiver Ronnie Smith caught 29 passes for 416 yards and will be joined by redshirt Dennis Pearson (6-0, 180), a transfer from Washington State. There's line experience in tackles John Marsala (6-0, 250) and Scott Bradley (6-2½, 255) and guard Pete Inge (5-10, 277).

The top defensive men returning from a squad that went 10-1, winning five very close games, are potential All-America linebacker Whip Walton (229); linebacker Mike Douglass (216); nose tackle Ed Imo (5-8, 223) and back Terry Jackson (184). Gilbert thinks he got one of the best-ever groups of JC transfers at a school known for them—including kicker Steve Duncan (5-8, 185); defensive end Phil Chambliss (230); linebacker Ron Morehouse (220); defensive backs Todd Kirschner (180) and Steve Jorde (190) and tight end Donnie Glenn (215). The freshman list is headed by fullback Mickey Paopao (5-11, 240) and running back Mike Fox (5-10, 180). There are 27 lettermen returning, including 10 starters, and 13 top substitutes. The schedule includes seven teams the Aztecs beat last season, but has added Arizona.

PORTLAND STATE—The Vikings lose quarterback June Jones, who led team to third straight national passing title (4445 yards) and 5473 yards in total offense en route to 8-3 season but Darrell (Mouse) Davis has another capable thrower, junior Mike Atwood, and five men who caught 36 or more passes—Dave Stief (47); Bryon Chambers, Jeff Salta, John Urness and John Colasurdo. Salta also gained 673 yards rushing. Offensive line is veteran one, too. The defense loses seven starters, including safety Arthur Dickson. Tackles Dan Bolton (6-4, 265) and Dave Hoopes (6-5, 245); linebackers Rick Cartasegna and Tony Mims (6-2, 220) and backs Jack Newhart and Charley Klever will help.



WHIP WALTON made 82 tackles and 102 assists last year for San Diego.



DEACON TURNER netted 982 yards and scored 7 touchdowns for Aztecs.

SANTA CLARA—Pat Malley says he had his best recruiting year in 19 seasons, including three prep first-team All-Americans—linebackers Bob Woolway and Greg O'Leary and defensive lineman Jeff Krietler. Good nucleus returns, too, from 7-4 team, led by leading rusher and scorer Mike Gill and receivers Doug Cosbie (44 catches) and James Biscoe. The defense has back all its starting linebackers—Tom Williams (205); Fred Lampe (192); Dan Farrell (185); Mike Gonzales (205) and Larry Loberg (195). Running back David Wesley (190) and defensive back Jeff Applewhite (175) head list of junior college transfers.

NEVADA (Reno)—Chris Ault turned a 3-8 team into an 8-3 team in 1976, and if his recruits look as good on the field as they do on paper, the Wolf Pack may be even stronger. Senior quarterback Jeff Tisdell (6-1, 190) is back to lead a multiple wing offense that produced more than 470 yards and 37 points a game. He has leading receiver Jeff Wright (55 catches, 672 yards) and runner Wayne Ferguson (672 yards), along with JC All-America guard David Hann (6-4, 230). The Selden brothers, Roberto (6-2, 240) and Carl (6-3, 245), will be at center and

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WHITTIER—John Godfrey is looking for some large, strong defensive linemen and if he can find them, the Poets should be a dangerous football team. Fifteen starters return, led by leading scorer Bob Warren at fullback; running back Rick Alkire; receivers Don Hodson, Nick Harper and Raymond Chavez; linebackers Ricky Collins and Dave Rodrigues and a veteran secondary of Al Strickland, Dave Cole, Mike Ciacchi and Tom Deuel. Godfrey, whose team was 6-4 last season, is hoping for development of quarterbacks Gordon Weisenburger and Chris Terrazas, and a young defensive line led by John Gelreich and Tony Primrose.

CLAREMONT-MUDD—The Stags were only 2-6 in 1976 but John Zinda thinks if he can get good quarterback play out of Bob Neilson, a 6-2, 185-pound sophomore, the team could be much improved. There are two fine players to help Neilson run the power I offense, halfback Jim Reed (5-9, 180) and center Augie Nieto (5-11, 195). Both were honorable mention all-league. Blocking help also will come from a pair of 6-2, 220-pound tackles, Mike Gunning and Jeff Poore. The defensive leader is end Tyrone Tallie (5-11, 210), a second-team all-conference player who doubles at fullback. Linebacker Greg Palma and back Hal Requa are veterans.

POMONA—The Sagehens are looking for improvement after a 2-7 season, including 0-5 in the conference. Walt Ambord played 18 freshmen in 1976. The top returnees on offense are senior quarterback Lyle Lansdell and running backs Brent Dunford (5-11, 185) and George Bushala (5-10, 175); tackle Jim Hazel (195); guards Warren Higa (185) and Robert Menicucci (175) and tight end Lance Abbott (185). Back defensively are ends Wayne Bergland (210) and Randy Roddy (6-6, 235); tackle Alan Bergland (210); middle guard Bill Vallijos (205); linebackers Curtis Davis (175) and John Buzzard (205) and backs Brian Miller (175) and Seth Franklin (180).

FAR WESTERN

UC DAVIS—Jim Sochor is rebuilding (just six starters return) but still is likely to win seventh straight conference title. Inexperienced Mike Moroski should be the quarterback and he has experienced help in split end Steve Griffin (180) and tackle John McKee (230). Speedy Don Barber joins Scott Thorne (246 yards) and Fred Wheeler at running back. Linebackers Rey Martinez (200) and Chris Pappas (185) and linemen Chuck Fomasi (245) and Casey Merrill (235) led the defense, along with captain-linebacker Jim Reifert and tackle Mark Markel. Sophomore Skip Scollan will bid to replace star placekicker Rolf Benirschke, an Oakland Raiders draftee.

HUMBOLDT STATE—The Lumberjacks have lost only twice in conference play the past two seasons, both to UC Davis, and if they can find some offensive line strength, should be in the fight again. Quarterback

Tim Nowell will be throwing to quality receivers Wally Yuhre (22 catches for 373 yards) and Louis Rovai (24 for 489). Converted linebacker Eric Woolsey gained 246 yards in 37 carries last season. Bud Van Deren loses All-America tackle Mike Gooding but has guards Jeff Kravitz (205) and Stan Iverson (230) back. Top defenders are end John Hamm (230), linebackers Blaine Westfall (220) and Ed Glazebrook (220), and safety Craig Adams.

CHICO STATE—Dick Trimmer recruited for offensive line size and defensive line depth to shore up a team that was 5-6. Included in that group are guard Scott Palmer (240) and defenders Rick Jones, Kinsey Gray and Mike McGovern. Newcomer Terry Stokes (6-3, 185) of Bakersfield JC will battle senior Frank Garcia at quarterback. Other top returnees are leading rusher in conference Dino Visinoni (606 yards); tailback Brian Anderson; wide receiver Rick Dickison; tackle Scott Cass (6-6, 215); defensive backs Charles Carter and Mark Affleck; nose guard Titus Henry and linebackers Scott Drummond and Kerry Garrett.

SAN FRANCISCO ST.—Depth and lack of a proven quarterback could pose problems for Vic Rowen's Gators. Sophomore Rich Palmer and senior Tom DeRego will vie at quarterback. Key returnees from 4-7 team are receiver Tony Watson (24 catches, 265 yards); running back D.J. McCrone (568 yards); return man Frank Crosby; center Kevin Gust (220); defensive lineman Dean Triggas (6-3, 229); linebacker Reggie Redmond (170); defensive back Kevin Banton (195) and kicker Gary Shupe. Rowen must replace such star players as nose guard Leonard Johnston; defensive back Gary Medeiros and linebackers Forest Hancock and Tommi Tyler.

HAYWARD STATE—Tim Tierney's team improved just a little, from 0-10 to 1-8-1, and with a good recruiting year should continue upswing. There are two solid veterans in offensive line, guard A.E. Hunkin (6-2, 230) and center Don Dutton (6-0, 225), to clear way for leading rusher Gary Spicer (5-11, 210), JC quarterback Chuck Stevenson and wide receiver Mark Loeffler, conference's top punt returner. On defense, Kevin Shannon (6-3, 235) is a standout in the line, and there is a trio of 6-foot, 205-pound linebackers returning in Rod Beaver, Stan Highstreet and Gordy Ross, as the Pioneers attempt to win some of the close games they lost.

SACRAMENTO STATE—Nine of 11 starters return on defense for Glen Brady but offense back from 2-8 squad may be thin, particularly in the line, where size is lacking. Trio of senior quarterbacks—Rich Shrout (62 completions, 940 yards); Chris Pappas and Randy Cantrell—can throw. Wide receivers Mike Beesweart and Tony Thomas are back, along with kicker Dan Sioroskey and runner Mike Surrat (6-1, 200), who needs a complement. Heading the defense are all-FWC middle linebacker John Thomas (215); fine cornerbacks Lapoleon Ingram (170) and Tyrone Hillmon (205) and safetyman Jeff Bennett (205).



By John Mooney

In his 39th year as the sports editor of Salt Lake City Tribune, John Mooney is past national president football scribes of America.

The Rockies

SUN DEVILS AND COUGARS FACE SIX TOUGH CHALLENGERS FOR WAC TITLE

PREDICTIONS

Western Athletic Conference

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Brigham Young | 5. New Mexico |
| 2. Arizona State | 6. Arizona |
| 3. Wyoming | 7. Utah |
| 4. Colorado State | 8. Texas-El Paso |

Independents

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Air Force Academy | 3. Nevada-Las Vegas |
| 2. Utah State | 4. Northern Colorado |

The last go-round of the current Western Athletic Conference may turn out to be a real merry-go-round with any of six teams given a chance at winning the championship, although Brigham Young and Arizona State have the shaky nod.

Among the independents, both Air Force Academy and Utah State expect improvement over their 4-7 and 3-8 records, respectively. Northern Colorado and Nevada-Las Vegas continue their drives to upgrade their football as independents.

If it lives up to its past history for unpredictability, the WAC might go out with a six-team tie for first, and it would be appropriate.

Last year, Arizona State was dreaming of being No. 1 in the nation and defending its championship was just a formality.

Instead, the Sun Devils suffered through an unbelievable seven-loss season as Brigham Young and Wyoming shared the championship.

Coach LaVell Edwards of BYU summed it up: "This could be the best balance in the 16 years of the WAC and six teams must be considered bona-fide challengers."

The two teams not figured in the championship are Utah and Texas-El Paso, and they are playing the role of spoilers.

This is the first year since the WAC consisted of eight teams that the full seven-game schedule will be played by all teams.

It also marks the last year of conference competition for Arizona and Arizona State, who will leave the conference for the Pac-10 after the 1977-78 school year.

The league welcomes four new head coaches—Bill Michaels at Texas-El Paso, Wayne Howard from Long Beach State, at Utah; Tony Mason, from Cincinnati, at Arizona and Bill Lewis, from Arkansas, to Wyoming.

As is expected from a league where the offense is king, the WAC and the Rockies should produce outstanding candidates for the post-season honors and the pros.

Two—quarterback Gifford Nielsen of BYU, and receiver John Jefferson of Arizona State—are being boomed for Heisman consideration.

Nielsen was voted first team by the Football Writers and second team by the Associated Press and United Press International last year, while Jefferson is called by Frank Kush "the best receiver I ever coached."

Three outstanding fullbacks are Todd Christensen of BYU, Mike Williams of New Mexico and Bob Elliott of UTEP. Top running back is Rod Harris of Colorado State.

Top receivers with Jefferson are Preston Dennard of New Mexico, Jack Steptoe of Utah and Paul Williams of the Air Force Academy.

Steve Cyphers of Colorado State and Lance Reynolds of BYU are outstanding offensive tackles and the top defensive stalwarts are Claude Nelson of Utah State, Woodrow Carter of CSU and Jon Abbott of Arizona.

The Air Force improvement is counting on a potent offense and perhaps a bit lighter schedule while Utah State is counting on shaking off its losing ways with a flock of transfers.

WESTERN ATHLETIC

BRIGHAM YOUNG—Coach LaVell Edwards admits, "I think we can go 9-2 again," and the Brigham Young publicity is geared to boosting Quarterback Gifford Nielsen into Heisman trophy contention.

Edwards is quick to admit that every spring he thinks his team should go 9-2, but there is no undue optimism in the Nielsen offensive credentials.

The 6-5, 203-pound senior quarterback, who led the Cougars to a co-championship of the WAC and into the Tangerine Bowl, will start the season as the top returning player in total offense, passing yards and touchdown passes.

Only four players in college history passed for more yardage in a season than Nielsen with his 3192 yards in '76 and only three have thrown more season touchdown passes than Nielsen's 29 of last year.

Among BYU's 33 returning lettermen are all the top receivers and most of the running backs, plus

outstanding veterans to anchor the lines.

Teaming with Nielsen in the offensive backfield is fullback Todd Christensen, who will be starting his fourth season. He is a deadly blocker, pulverizing runner and has led the Cougars in receiving for two years. Todd ranked 14th in the nation in pass receiving with 51 catches for 510 yards.

The 6-3, 225-pound senior averaged 3.9 a carry in 91 attempts.

With Christensen, the receiver corps includes John VanDerWouden, George Harris, Lynn Zwahlen and Kent Tingey at split ends; Tod Thompson and Clay Brown at tight end, and flanker Mike Chronister.

BYU lost its all-time rusher in Jeff Blanc, but Roger Gourley or transfers Casey Wingard or Bill Ring could fill the gap at tailback.

Top offensive linemen are offensive tackle Lance Reynolds, 6-2, 275-pound senior, and Keith Uperesa, 6-3, 275-pound senior.

Returned Mormon missionaries Scott Nielsen and Tom Miller have the edge at center, Calvin Close, a soph, should team with Uperesa and letterman Kelly Harris or transfer Al Gaspard should pair with Reynolds, who missed the spring with knee surgery.

Looking at the defense, Edwards notes, "Last year we had some holes to fill and we wound up leading the conference in rushing defense and defense against scoring. We also were high nationally in forcing turnovers. I'm confident our defense will be strong again. Our secondary is shaping up well."

All-WAC tackle Mekeli Iere-mia, 6-2, 238-pound senior, leads the defense and in sacks. He'll team with Gary Peterson, the WAC heavyweight wrestling champ, at 6-4 and 270 pounds.

Mat Mendenhall, Ross Varner and Kip Apostol had good credentials.

All WAC linebaker Rod Wood is a junior who will provide experience for super soph Larry Miller and Mark Berntsen.

Cornerback Tony Hernandez and strong safety Marc Swenson return and transfer Steve Carson and John Neal have the edge for the other spots.

Kicking game is questionable with the departure on church missions of Dave Taylor and Parry Winder.

While Edwards stressed improved running in his outlook for the fall, he knows BYU led the nation in passing with 307.8 yards a game and 31 touchdown passes through the air. With Nielsen established as a national passing star, the Cougars will again be airborne and dangerous.

ARIZONA STATE—From "We're No. 1 in the nation" to the shock of a 4-7 season was a hard pill for the Sun Devils to swallow, especially on the eve of entrance into the Pac-8 Conference.

While Coach Frank Kush will not promise any championships as a going-away present for the WAC, he will state surely and emphatically, "We will NOT sink to the levels of last season."

That 4-7 season, by the way, was the first losing year for Kush in 31 years as a player and a coach, and it was all the Punishing Polack wanted in the "character-building" department of college football.

Success didn't do it and failure last year has not changed the Kush philosophy, which is, "All our efforts are aimed at making each individual athlete realize his full potential. It takes a lot of sacrifice and discipline, but it pays dividends not only now, but also in later life."

And Kush kisses off last year's debacle, adding, "We had so many things go wrong, things tangible and intangible. Had it been one thing, we could have corrected, but we forgot that and in the spring we started building solidly for the fall."

Last year the superlatives mounted week by week as the Sun Devils lived in the aura of the Fiesta Bowl victory over Nebraska.

This year, Kush promises a "low profile" approach to the last season in the WAC.

But one player still draws the coach's praise.

John Jefferson, who was injured a lot last year, still is tabbed, "the best receiver I ever coached" by Kush.

Jefferson is being billed for

Heisman Trophy consideration and he'll own all the ASU receiving records by the end of this season.

He caught 48 for 681 yards and five touchdowns last year, averaging 14.2 yards a reception. He's 6-1 and weighs 184 pounds, but he's fantastic.

Jefferson is one of seven offensive starters returning, but returning lettermen didn't mean much in the spring as Kush declared all positions open.

Best example of the new look is at quarterback where seniors Dennis Sproul and Fred Mortensen shared the duties in the spring with soph squadmen Mark Malone and John Fouch.

Offensive line should be solid with starters tackle Steve Chambers, guards George Fadok and Rick Torbert and center Norris Williams.

Jefferson will be the wide receiver, with Bruce Hardy at tight end and Ron Washington slated for flanker.

There'll be new faces at running backs, with George Perry, Brian Felix, Mike Harris and transfers Jeff McIntyre having the edge.

Solid defensive players are tackle Kit Lathrop, middle guard Gary Padjen, linebacker Tim Peterson and deep backs John Harris and Raye Williams.

Offensively, Kush has good size. McIntyre, who may be the top running back, stands 6-4 and weighs 240. On the opposite side of the scale is Arthur (Turtle) Lane, a quick runner at 5-8 and 174.

Chambers at offensive tackle is a 6-6, 266-pound senior, and Gary Winchester, another letterman tackle, weighs 252 on a 6-2 frame. Hardy, the senior tight end who reported as a quarterback, is a 6-5, 241-pounder.

Fadok and Torbert, the guards are 6-3 and 6-2, respectively, and weigh 235.

Williams, who started as a frosh, will be solid with Chris Mott as a back-up center.

Kicker probably will be Mortensen for punts and Mark Jones and Steve Hicks, a junior, for placements.

Arizona State has one advantage in playing seven of its 11



MARC COUSINS (left), Wyoming quarterback, rambled for 12 touchdowns last year, while teammate WALTER HOWARD was All-WAC tight end.

games in Sun Devil Stadium, which is being enlarged to 56,000 seats this fall and 62,000 for '78, the first year in the Pac-10.

And the schedule sends both defending co-champions, Brigham Young and Wyoming, to Tempe, along with arch-rival Arizona and UTEP.

Last year ASU started with four straight losses, won two games, lost three in a row and wound up beating Colorado State and Arizona.

This year, Kush sends his team against Northwestern, Oregon State and Missouri before the WAC opener at Albuquerque against New Mexico.

WYOMING—Coach Fred Akers didn't stick around long enough to prove whether the 1976 Cowboys were lucky and/or good, and it will be up to Bill Lewis, former Arkansas assistant, to keep the Pokes rolling after their amazing co-championship a year ago.

Akers led the Cowboys to an 8-3 regular season mark and a 6-1 record for a WAC co-championship.

Wyoming has 52 lettermen returning from that team, including seven starters on offense and eight on defense.

But the optimism is tempered a bit by the fact Wyoming won five conference games by a total of 15 points.

The Cowboys beat New Mexico by one, Arizona by two, Arizona State by three, Texas-El Paso by four and BYU by five points. Their only WAC loss was to Col-

orado State by three.

That's getting the good bounces, and Coach Lewis will be changing both the offense and defense to try to keep the winning momentum.

The first change was going to the "50" front from Akers' four downlinemen-three linebacker defense of the last two years.

"We feel the '50' gives us more flexibility," Lewis explained. "It allows us to drop back as many as eight people on pass coverage."

It didn't take Lewis long to realize the WAC throws that football more than most conferences.

Wyoming will go to the zone coverage in the secondary, dropping the man-for-man which was the poorest in the conference last year.

Offensively, the Cowboys will go from the wishbone to the veer, which he calls the Split-Back-Veer, which also includes a flanker and a split end.

Lewis sees the offense as offering more opportunity to pass.

There is no lack of experienced personnel on the Wyoming campus. The problem is how quickly the players can adjust to new offensive and defensive philosophies.

Offensive starters returning include John Arnold at split, end, Walter Howard at tight end, Johnny Miller and Johnny Baker both 274-pounders, at tackles, Marc Cousins at quarterback, Latrail Jones and Doug Wilson at halfbacks.

Among the 11 other offensive



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lettermen back are Don Clayton, who started some games last year at quarterback, and runners Bob Davis, J.C. Fowler, Terry Martin and LaFran Simmons.

Defensive starters returning include Dave Clements and Lynn Hover at ends, Leon Broussard, 6-2, 266, and Mike Webb, 6-4, 260, at tackles, linebackers Ken Fantetti, Glen Hover and Grant Linck and safety Sammy Steinmark.

Wyoming has one disadvantage in the schedule each year—the last three or four games are played on the road to escape the Laramie weather threat.

This year, the Cowboys finish on the road against Arizona State, Utah State, New Mexico and Louisiana State.

While discarding or changing many of the ideas of his predecessor, Lewis gives full credit to the Akers' staff for the winning spirit which was brought back to the Cowboy squad.

"This team reached a peak where it expected to win," Lewis admitted, "and our job now is to make this team realize what it takes to continue to be successful. It's a lot tougher to be repeaters."

And that's what bothers the followers of the Cowboys, who realize Wyoming caught a few opponents unawares and built up momentum before rivals knew Wyoming was in the race.

They won't sneak by on the rail this year.

COLORADO STATE—The Rams handed co-champion Wyoming its only defeat in the WAC and the boosters are predicting this is the year Colorado State makes its bid for the championship.

The talk is for the Rams to win eight, nine or 10 games, which should indicate a solid shot at the championship.

Certainly Coach Sarkis Arslanian has a schedule to produce a winning season, with Pacific, Hawaii, Northern Colorado, West Texas State and Utah State along with seven WAC opponents.

Defense again may be the key to the Ram bid.

Last year, CSU led the WAC in team defense, giving up 282.2 yards a game and 3.8 yards a play average. The Ram defense also was second in the nation in quarterback sacks, with 43 for 358 yards.

Key is Woodrow Carter, 6-3, 240-pound defensive end, who was credited with 16 quarterback sacks for 112 yards in losses.

Al Baker (6-6 and 259) at the opposite end, and tackles Mark Nichols 6-3 and 231) and Mike Bell 6-6 and 255) give a solid Front Four defensively.

Veteran linebackers Paul McWilliams (6-3 and 240) and Kent Campbell (6-3, 225) are expected to team with senior Dana Isoline.

The defensive secondary offers experience, class and depth. Ricky Harr, Cliff Featherstone and Du-

MIKE DEUTSCH, Colorado State, was second best punter in nation in '76.

STEVE CYPHERS, 6-2, 252, was an All-WAC offensive tackle for CSU last year.



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NOEL MAZZONE, New Mexico, completed 89 passes for 1427 yards in '76.

With Mazzone and Williams in the backfield is Ricky Martin at the flanker spot.

Williams, the 218-pound, 6-3 junior fullback, can be awesome, as he rushed for 1240 yards in 258 carries as a soph last fall.

He was tenth nationally in rushing and 13th in all-purpose running in 1976. He scored 11 touchdowns while setting a school rushing record. Also caught nine passes for 161 yards.

With a two-year rushing total of 1751 yards, Williams is just 1200 yards shy of the school rushing record, with two seasons to play.

Dennard, the senior split end (6-2 and 180) has established all-time New Mexico pass catching records, with a season to pad his record.

He led league in receiving in 1975 and was fourth in nation.

Last year, he had 42 catches for 783 yards and five touchdowns after slow start when Lobos were playing ground hog football.

His three-year total is 116 catches for 1916 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Mazzone developed into the finest soph quarterback in New Mexico history last year when he finished ninth in the nation in

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

Without the slightest reason of doubt, the greatest football forecaster that ever lived is Joey Zambanini. On several occasions Joe Zambanini, president of Pigskin Prognosticator has openly challenged Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder to a prognostication battle. Jimmy never accepted the challenge.

Zambanini is a television sensation (as a football expert) in Wilmington, Delaware. His show "Football Insight" is televised live to the Delaware area. Last year Joey predicted (by the point spread) 63 out of 75 (special games) for an unbelievable 84% accuracy.

He is the man that changed and later stopped the Delaware State Football Lottery. Zambanini forecasted and wrote sports articles in several different cities, including New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Hawaii, Boston, Chicago, Wilmington Baltimore, and others.

Here are some excerpts written about Zambanini last season.

● On December 10, 1976, Zambanini predicted that the Delaware State Football Lottery would have their highest amount of wagering. Zambanini predicted a \$100,000 week over a previous high of only \$62,033. That week Delaware handled \$98,929.

Margaret Pala (*The Philadelphia Bulletin*)

● In Las Vegas, New York or Chicago, Zambanini's talents as a handicapper of football games would certainly be appreciated, but not in Delaware where lottery officials prefer to give him the cold shoulder.

Charles P. Wilson (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

● The Delaware Scoreboard Lottery is slowly recovering from a series of bungles which have threatened to put an end to the first legalized state-run betting on professional football.

The central figure in the controversy is Joey Zambanini, Wilmington sports handicapper. Zambanini has been fighting the Delaware Lottery since its inception in September on the grounds that bureaucrats should not be bookmakers.

Bob Ford (*The Star Democrat, Easton, Maryland*)

● Mr Zambanini, warning that "savvy bettors" would jump at Mr Simmons' spreads and that the state would "lose a bundle," made lottery officials edgy. On Saturday night Mr Simmons cancelled the games.

What began to agitate lottery officials here about their odds was a statement by Joseph Zambanini, an oddsmaker, who says he has access to "the Las Vegas line."

Ben A. Franklin (*The New York Times*)

● Joe Zambanini, thirty-two-year-old self-styled sports handicapper claims the "lites" in this week's Delaware pro football lottery "so bad it could be financially disastrous for the state."

Bob Leary (*Evening Journal*)

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cluding the bulwark of a rugged defense. And Mason comes with a reputation for strong defense.

Arizona, along with Arizona State, is playing its last season as a member of the WAC, although it may be some years before the Pac-10 schedule takes over completely from WAC teams.

Arizona has a tough schedule, with Auburn, San Diego State and Iowa before the Wildcats open on the road against Wyoming.

They also play Brigham Young, Texas-El Paso and Arizona State on the road in the WAC, so the conference race poses problems.

Mason likes his returning defensemen.

The outstanding holdovers include three-year lettermen tackles Jon Abbott (6-2, 242) and John Sanguinetti (6-2, 219); senior defensive ends Gilbert Lewis (6-4, 215) and Ken Straw (6-3, 211) and soph letterman nose guard Jeff Whitton (6-3, 237).

Only Larry Yena returns from the linebacking corps, but the secondary is strong.

Starters Van Cooper, Doug Henderson and Ken Creviston will be back from the secondary and Gary Harris and D.J. Wallace saw a lot of action there last year.

The offensive line also shows five returning starters, anchored by three-year letterman Bill Segal (6-6, 270) senior.

The alternating quarterbacks, Marc Lunsford and Jim Krohn, both return. Lunsford, the senior, is 5-10 and 183 and he completed 70 of 132 passes for 1284 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Krohn, the 6-3, 185-pound soph, completed 44 of 80 for 643 yards and six touchdowns.

Tight end Ron Beyer, a junior, and flanker Harry Holt are the only receivers back from the top five of a year ago.

But the Wildcats return all their top runners, with tailback Allen Clasenapp and Derriak Anderson, the 6-1, 189-pound senior, leading the returnees.

Anderson averaged 4.4 yards for 114 carries and Glasenap 5.6 yards for 81 rushes.

Fullback Dean Schock (6-3, 218-pound senior) averaged 4.1 yards for 82 attempts rushing.

Other offensive starters include

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1 10/6-10 (5-0)	Tex. (-11) 24 Okla. 17 S.C. (-24) 36 Va. 7 Princ. (-1) 24 Col. 16 Miss. (-4) 16 Ga. 17 Hous. (-2) 27 Den. 17 Jeta (-10) 27 Buff. 24	Tex. 5, Okla. 8 S.C. 36, Va. 7 Princ. 6, Col. 3 Miss. 21, Ga. 17 Hous. 17, Den. 3 Jeta 17, Buff. 14	W W W W W W	7 11/20-21 (2-4)	Ok. 31, (-3) 31 T.S. 29 Tenn. (-4) 27 Ky. 19 T.T. (-6) 31 Hous. 18 Wisc. (-4) 30 Minn. 24 Den. (-10) 31 N.Y. 19 T.B. (-14) 17 Cleve. 23	O.S. 42, (-2) 21 Ky. 7, Tenn. 9 Hous. 27, T.T. 19 Wisc. 20, Minn. 17 Den. 14, N.Y. 15 Clev. 24, T.B. 7	W W L W L L
2 10/16-17 (3-3)	Kan. (-3) 27 Ok. 20 A&M (-6) 27 Bay. 13 Md. (-15) 34 W.F. 10 Wisc. (-13) 21 O.G. 27 Den. (-13) 23 Okla. 17 Wash. (-4) 20 Del. 10	Ok. 29, Kan. 10 A&M 24, Bay. 0 Md. 17, W.F. 15 Wisc. 20, O.G. 30 Okla. 17, Den. 10 Wash. 20, Del. 7	L W W L L L	8 11/25-26 (4-1)	Neb. (-8) 27 Ok. 14 Wash. (-10) 30 Phil. 10 L.A. (-14) 24 N.O. 8 Phil. (-3) 23 Cinn. 16 Clev. (-3) 24 Minn. 17	Ok. 20, Neb. 17 Wash. 24, Phil. 0 L.A. 33, N.O. 14 Phil. 7, Cinn. 3 Clev. 17, Minn. 13	L W W W W W
3 10/23-24 (6-0)	Col. (-3) 20 I.S. 7 N.C. St. (-9) 31 Clem. 13 Q.T. (-5) 24 Tul. 13 N.E. (-3) 31 Buff. 17 Dall. (-6) 24 Chic. 7 Wash. (-12) 16 L.A. 20	Col. 33, I.S. 14 N.C. St. 38, Clem. 21 Q.T. 7, Tul. 18 N.E. 38, Buff. 22 Dall. 31, Chic. 21 N.O. 10, L.A. 16	W W W W W W	9 12/4-5 (6-1)	Min. (-14) 17 Hous. 20 L.A. (-10) 31 S.F. 6 N.E. (-15) 31 N.O. 10 Phil. (-24) 42 T.B. 3 Miami (-1) 27 Buff. 13 Cinn. (-13) 23 Okla. 20	Min. 17, Hous. 21 L.A. 39, S.F. 0 N.E. 27, N.O. 8 Phil. 42, T.B. 0 Miami 45, Buff. 27 Cinn. 30, Okla. 20	W W W W W L
4 10/30-31 (2-4)	Wash. (-14) 24 UCLA 27 Ky. (-12) 17 Md. 20 Minn. (-23) 20 Mich. 30 Den. (-7) 24 Okla. 20 St. L. (-4) 31 S.F. 20 Hous. (-9) 13 Bah. 16	Wash. 21, UCLA 30 Ky. 14, Md. 24 Minn. 45, Mich. 0 Okla. 18, Den. 6 St. L. 23, S.F. 20 Bah. 38, Hous. 14	W W L L L L	10 12/11-12 (4-2)	Phil. (-10) 27 Hous. 10 Wash. (-4) 20 Dall. 17 Dall. (-14) 30 Buff. 10 S.D. (-14) 20 Okla. 24 N.Y. (-8) 10 St. L. 17	Phil. 21, Hous. 0 Wash. 27, Dall. 14 Buff. 55, Buff. 20 Okla. 24, S.D. 0 N.Y. 14, St. L. 17	W W W W W W
5 11/6-7 (3-3)	Ala. (-7) 27 LSU 19 Tenn. (-1) 24 Miss. 14 Ark. (-8) 31 Bay. 13 Q.T. (-18) 14 N.D. 24 St. L. (-10) 31 Phil. 14 Chic. (-13) 20 Okla. 17	Ala. 28, LSU 17 Tenn. 52, Tenn. 0 Ark. 7, Bay. 7 Q.T. 23, N.D. 14 St. L. 31, Phil. 14 Chic. 27, Okla. 28	W L L L L L	11 12/18-19 (2-1)	Dak. (-7) 31 N.E. 20 Minn. (-4) 25 Wash. 10 L.A. (-3) 24 Dall. 17	Okla. 24, N.E. 27 Minn. 35, Wash. 20 L.A. 14, Dall. 12	L L W
6 11/13-14 (4-2)	S.C. (-13) 31 W.F. 7 Tenn. (-1) 24 Miss. 14 Okla. (-4) 30 Mo. 21 Harv. (-13) 20 Yale 17 N.E. (-10) 30 Buff. 27 Clev. (-7) 27 Phil. 12	W.F. 10, S.C. 7 Tenn. 32, Miss. 8 Okla. 27, Mo. 20 Yale 21, Harv. 7 N.E. 21, Buff. 14 Clev. 24, Phil. 3	L W W W W W	12 12/21-22 (4-2)	Ky. (-3) 27 N.C. 17 Ga. (-3) 20 Phil. 17 Col. (-7) 21 O.S. 20 USC (-7) 14 Mich. 17 Hous. (-4) 24 Mich. 20 A&M (-8) 27 Fla. 13	Ky. 21, N.C. 5 Phil. 27, Ga. 3 O.S. 37, Col. 10 USC 14, Mich. 8 Hous. 30, Mich. 21 A&M 37, Fla. 14	W L L W W W

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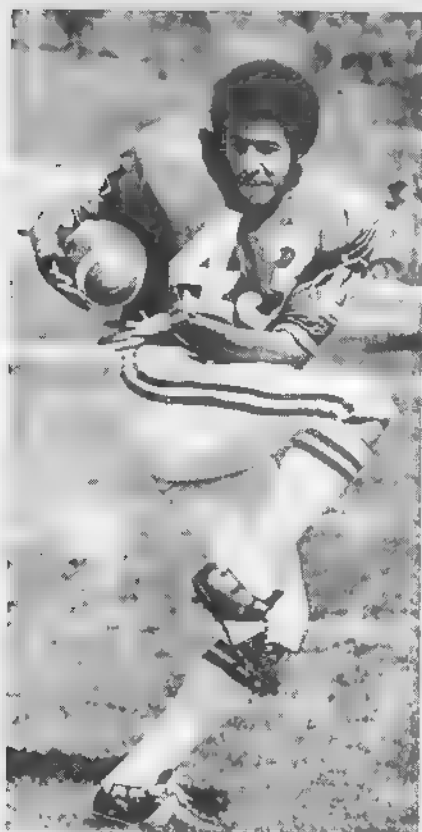
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JACK STEPTOE, Utah flanker, caught 38 passes for 752 yards last season.

pressure from Harlan Karnofsky, who played in one game as a frosh, and Randy Gomez, a transfer.

Howard hopes to establish a running game to take some of the pressure off the quarterbacks, and in Peake and Moseley he has experienced, journeyman runners.

Jeff Parker, who saw little action a year ago, is making a strong bid and frosh Joe Tarver could be a prospect. Veteran Dan Gerbatz and transfer Rocky Liapis challenge Moseley.

The receivers are excellent. In addition to Steptoe who was the WAC rookie of the year and eighth nationally in all-purpose running, Utah has Corey Hansen, Frank Henry, Roland Solomon, Doug Watson and Gordon Kurz, with experience.

Outstanding defensive veterans are linebacker Mike Bailey, end Guy Morrell and safety Derek Washington. Top newcomers are Derek Smith (6-5, 270 pound freshman) offensive tackle, Jeff Hucko, quarterback-kicker; punter Rick Patridge, and Phillip Larson, switched to defensive tackle.

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INDEPENDENTS

AIR FORCE—Late-season victories over Arizona State and Wyoming, plus a bit more favorable schedule, should make Coach Ben Martin's term as president of the American Football Coaches' Assn. more enjoyable.

Martin, entering his 20th season, has the problem of rebuilding the defense which gave up 273 points in the 4-7 season.

Even in the Arizona State and Wyoming victories, the defense gave up 51 points. The offense, which scored 180 points, returns a passing attack which could be the best in recent years at the Academy.

The schedule is more moderate, with only Notre Dame, Wyoming, Baylor and Boston College coming off winning records.

Thirty-seven lettermen, including 16 starters, hope to retain that late-season momentum. Nine starters on offense are back, although the loss of tailback Ken Wood poses a major problem.

Heaviest defensive losses were in the interior line spots, leaving the defensive ends and linebackers well fortified with veterans.

Martin credits much of the offensive potential to a couple of men who started as freshman—quarterback Dave Ziebart and fullback David Thomas.

"Ziebart came along extremely well late in the season," Martin explains. "He throws the ball very well, and we plan our offense around his skills."

"The running threat comes from Thomas (6-2, and 217 pounds) at fullback, which enables us to move Mark Bushnell, who was a fullback, to tailback, giving us experience at both running spots," Martin added.

As usual, the Falcons are lacking in depth.

Offensively, the starters returning are Paul Williams at split end, Tim Furst and Russ Glover at tackles, Jim Weidman at guard, Gerry Smith at center and Linden Torchia at tight end.

Rounding out the backfield is starter Steve Hoog at the flanker.

All the top receivers return with the exception of Wood, with Williams the leader with 45 receptions for 684 yards and three

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NEVADA-LAS VEGAS—The Rebels are up-grading their football to match the reputation of the basketball team and Coach Tony Knap sees improvement, although moving into Division I is a tough climb which will come slowly.

Knap sees the most improvement at quarterback, receivers and defensive secondary.

Quarterbacking will be handled by Greg Van Ness, a senior, Doug Robertson, a soph, or rookie Carlton Kelley, a 31-year-old soph.

Receivers include Henry Verdeen, Don Davenport, Kurt Schnabel, Brian Harris and the tight ends, Eric Anderson, Robert Starbird, Cleveland Jackson and Mike Cavaretta.

In the secondary strength, Knap lists Aaron Mitchell, Bennie Caucham, Andre Jones, Barry Hyde, Tony Williams, Crayton Jones, Pat Cason, Dan Budak, Larry Jordan and Bob Lowery.

The line strengths depend on several players who missed the spring because of injuries. Dave Beall, Alphonso Williams, Randy Rizo, Fialele Edra and Mark Vargas could be the difference, if they report healthy.

Raymond Strong, last year's top runner, missed the spring drills, leaving the ground game in the hands of Brian Cobb, Darall Moore, Henry Melton, Russell Ellis and Mike Duckworth.

NORTHERN COLORADO—The Bears face a problem of rebuilding the defense for a schedule which includes Division II national champion Northern Michigan, North Dakota State, 1976 Division II semifinalist; WAC contender Colorado State, and 1970-71 national runnerup Montana.

From the defense, only linebackers Mike Tibbitts and Bob Curry and cornerback Jim Goldstone return.

Only the center is missing from the offensive line starters of 1976, when the Bears went 6-3 in their first year as an independent since 1924.

Rich Marquez is the leading receiver with 33 catches for 141 yards, along with quarterback-tight end Bill Kenney and the No. 2 rusher in fullback Jim Goodenberger, who carried 105 times for 442 yards.

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MONTANA STATE—"We can't," says a resigned Sonny Holland, "savor it any longer." Holland, his hard-working assistants and the oh-so-dedicated Bobcats brought unprecedented grid success to the Treasure State with the victory over Akron in the Pioneer Bowl. And while Holland says in one breath, "We have as good a chance as anyone to win the title in '77," he admits in the next, "We've got quite a few good players, but we're a long way from being a good team."

Holland's biggest patch job is in the offensive skill positions. Starting tailback Don Ueland (873 yards) graduated, and his backup—and the conference's leading yard-gainer—Tom Kostrba (1083) left school. Wide receivers Bryan Flaig (20 catches, 351 yards) and Len Kelly also graduated.

And, as is Sonny's way, no junior collegians were recruited. So while last year's backups in many positions, having soaked up some valuable experience in the playoffs, can assume starting roles, freshmen will have to provide depth at many spots.

Fullback Delmar Jones (595 yards) has moved to tailback, where he'll get competition from junior Scott Hoard, and Mike Vidmar should stick at fullback. Scott Quittem, the team's second-leading receiver, will fill one wide spot, but the other is up for grabs. All-league tight end Ron McCullough returns.

All-conference quarterback Paul Dennehy (1373 in total offense) is only a junior, but the Cats could use a legitimate backup. For protection, Lee Washburn (6-6, 250), Jon Borchardt (6-5, 235) and Jeff Conley—all second-team all-conference—anchor the Big Sky's best line.

Two vital cogs—Kodak all-America defensive end Les Leininger and linebacker Tim Nixon—are missing, while a lingering illness finally forced all-conference tackle Dick Lyman to the sidelines. Dan Ueland, small at 5-9, 190, should step into Leininger's shoes while Rick Kelsic (6-2½, 225) will team with Rick Vancleeve (6-3½, 245) at tackle.

All starters but all-leaguer Vince Dodds return in the secondary,

led by Ron Muri and Greg Wiggs, so finding a running mate for line-backer Mark DeVore in the Cats' 5-2 defense is the biggest task. Chip Young, a converted nose guard, will likely fill the bill.

Jeff Muri, who kicked for 76 points as a frosh, and punter Stu Dodds will double at wide receiver and defensive back, respectively.

IDAHO—Confidence, says Ed Troxel, and experience—we've got some, but we'll need a little more.

"That background and experience in the playoffs will make Montana State awfully tough," says the fourth-year Vandal head coach. "They were still playing when the rest of us were by the fireside and that's an edge."

But the Vandals could make up that edge if Troxel can plug a graduation-riddled offensive line and develop some linebackers.

For in addition to Yarno, guard Clarence Hough and tackles Wil Overgaard and Greg Kittrell—all-leaguers all—departed. Joe Dahlin (6-3, 236) and Dave Wiggum (6-4, 240) have started at guard. Holdovers Tom Randel (235), Larry Coombs (234) and Joe Kramer (237) look like the other starters, although JC imports Brian Zimmerman (270) and Nick Mayer (255) will challenge.

Junior Rocky Tuttle and Craig Juntenen will again fight for the quarterback spot, Tuttle finishing up last season after his senior rival was injured. And the league's second-best rushing attack (behind MSU) returns Robert Brooks (770 yards), Robert Taylor (596), Tim Lappano and 220-pounder Lance Hubbard.

Troxel returns all five starters on the defensive front, led by all-leaguer Chris Tormey (230) and Joe Pellegrini (255), as well as a bundle of defensive backs with starting experience, most notably Rick Linehan and Brian Charles.

But the key is replacing all-conference linebackers Kjell Kiilgaard and John Kirtland. Robert Cafferty has all-star potential, but he'll need help. Troxel experimented with the 5-2 in spring and may have to do some shifting to find room for redshirt transfer Steve Parker (6-7, 255) from Washington.



MIKE KORVAS kicked 17 field goals for Weber State last season.

NORTHERN ARIZONA—Joe Salem heard all the jokes about his Diaper Defense and robbing the cradle, kept telling everyone his Lumberjacks were a year or two from championship caliber and then sent his kiddie corps to beat up on the elders.

So, with only four starters missing, this is the year, huh Joe?

"Montana State and Idaho pushed us around easily," he reminded, "and they both have a lot of people back. And we've got a long way to go."

Three of those four losses were on the offensive line—center Paul Duchaineau, guard Gil Huerta and tight end Jeff Fletcher. A little spring shuffling sent wide receiver John Walton to tight end and tight end Ted Kawulok to guard, and with all-conference guard Larry Friedrichs and two-year starting tackles Rodger Carbone (6-6, 265) and Robert Orrill (6-4, 235) back, the 'Jacks appear solid.

JC transfer Herb Daniel's arrival at quarterback last year gave the Axers 1379 yards in total offense and some badly needed direction. And all his accomplices are back, led by fullback Carl Golden (731 yards), Alan Clark (615) and Robert Fowler (406). Flanker Tyrone Peterson (30 catches, 519 yards) was all-Big Sky as a soph.

The league's stingiest defense returns almost intact, with only sparkplug end Mark Roberts gone. Oddly enough, only one Axer, safety Harold Smith, was an all-conference pick.

transfer Larry Morrith are battling for the cornerback posts left vacant by all-conference players Gary Rosolowich and Lester McNealy. All-Big Sky tackle Chris Malmgren (6-3½, 235) and transfer Ken Harbuck (6-3, 245) anchor a line that lost another all-leaguer, Kevan O'Hara.

Linebacking could be Criner's strongest suit. All-league returnee Larry Polowski (6-3, 225) leads a group that includes Dave Williams, redshirt Willie Beamon and newcomer Dennis Ching (6-2, 220).

MONTANA—Graduations and defections left a good portion of Coach Gene Carlson's cupboard bare, so the Grizzly staff hustled down a half dozen JC transfers and a flock of freshmen to try and shore things up.

Some 17 regulars are gone, including little all-American safety Greg Anderson, four running backs, the starting wide receivers and most of the defensive front.

Montana should be strongest on the offensive line. All-leaguer

TERRY FALCON, at 6-4 280, has ability to open holes for Montana.



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See Page 16

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On Page 7**

WEBER STATE—The Wildcats escaped the cellar last year, but only by virtue of a 34-7 win over Idaho State just after Dick Gwinn (10-33-1 in four years) announced his resignation.

His replacement, Pete Riehlman, had great success in his last head job at Chico State, but more recently was a coaching refugee from the World Football League's Hawaii franchise.

The only punch the Wildcats could muster last year came on the talented arm of Rod Bockwoldt, whose 2,268 yards through the air ranked him among the nation's Division II leaders. But the versatile signal-caller has graduated, and Morris Bledsoe and Pat Ford—two of 11 JC transfers—lead the race for the starting job.

In backs Mark Billmire and Eric Hill, the Wildcats can move the ball—but only if Riehlman can patch up an offensive line that lost five lettermen, including all-star Steve Kelly and all-conference tight-end Bruce Burningham.

League-leading receiver Tommy Coleman (42 catches, 537 yards) will be joined by JC catchers Mike Coleman, Scott Thomas and Kent Critchlow.

Weber had the league's worst defense, but should be better this year, although veterans like Lorenzo Townsend on the line and Orin Trussell in the secondary were lost.

Kevin Harmon (240) and John Connelly will get help on the line from JC transfer Kevin Coles (6-4, 240), while lettermen Jerry Merz and Cam McKnight have experience at linebacker. All-leaguer Doug Battershill (6-3, 190) leads a capable secondary that will be bolstered by transfers Dennis Duncanson and Mike Rosky.

Mike Korvas (42.2 punting, 10 of 17 FG) joins Montana's Carlson as one of the best all-purpose kickers in the region.

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CHATTANOOGA Tenn. 6-4-1	Western Kentucky 7-10	Appalachian 4-10	Furman 4-10	Western Carolina 28-14	Illinois State 24-0	Jacksonville 14-7	Chicago 10-14	Rovering Green 49-29	Tennessee State 14-14	Marshall 4-10	Marshall 4-10	Marshall 4-10	Marshall 4-10
CINCINNATI Ohio 8-3	Northwest Louisiana 20-6	Louisville 20-6	Western Carolina 4-10	Georgia Tech. 24-34	Virginia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
CITADEL Charleston, S.C. 8-6	Navy 4-10	Western Carolina 4-10	Georgia Tech. 24-34	Georgia Tech. 24-34	Virginia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
CLENSON Charleston, S.C. 8-2	Maryland 8-20	Georgia 8-41	Georgia Tech. 24-34	Georgia Tech. 24-34	Virginia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
GOLGATE Hamilton, N.Y. 8-2	Bulgers 8-17	Lafayette 24-14	Kent State 24-14	Kent State 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
COLORADO Boulder 8-4	Pacific 8-17	Kent State 24-14	Kent State 24-14	Kent State 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
COLORADO State 8-5	Pacific 8-17	Kent State 24-14	Kent State 24-14	Kent State 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
COLUMBIA New York City 8-8	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
CONNECTICUT Storrs 2-8	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
CORNELL Ithaca, N.Y. 2-7	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
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DRAKE Des Moines, Iowa 1-10	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
DUKE Durham, N.C. 6-5-1	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
EAST CAROLINA UNIV. Greenville, N.C. 8-3	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
EASTERN MICHIGAN Ypsilanti 8-9	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
EL PASO Texas 1-11	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
FLORIDA Gainesville 8-3	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
FLORIDA STATE Tallahassee 5-6	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
FRANKLIN MARSHALL Lancaster, Pa. 8-1	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
FRESNO STATE Fresno, Calif. 8-6	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
FURMAN Greenville, S.C. 10-1	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
GEORGIA Athens 8-1	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
GEORGIA TECH Atlanta 4-8-1	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
GRAMBLING Louisiana 8-1	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
HARVARD Cambridge, Mass. 8-3	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9
HAWAII Honolulu 8-8	Lehigh 8-17	Harvard 14-10	Lafayette 24-14	Lafayette 24-14	Georgia Tech. 17-15	Delaware 17-15	Virginia 14-30	East Carolina 3-23	Chattanooga 14-10	Ohio Univ. 30-0	Appalachian 10-31	Yankee 30-7	Miami (O.) Nov. 24 17-9

	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26
MIAMI Olebo	Dayton 28-8		South Carolina 6-1	Indiana 14-1	Yale 14-21	Marshall 14-21	Ohio Univ. 14-28	Dorling Green 9-7	Toledo 9-24	Western Michigan 31-0	Kent State 17-34		Clemson Nov 34 9-17
MICHIGAN State		Illinois 38-7	Duke 3-38	Navy 70-14	Texas A. & M. 42-10	Michigan State 42-10	Wisconsin 40-27	Minnesota 45-0	Iowa 31-23	Northwestern 38-7	Purdue 14-16	Ohio State 22-0	
MICHIGAN State		Purdue 45-13	Washington State	Wyoming 21-10	Noire Dame 6-24	Michigan 10-42	Indiana 23-0	Wisconsin 45-0	Illinois 31-23	Minnesota 10-14	Northwestern 38-7	Iowa 22-0	
MIDDLE Tennessee		Tennessee State (Nashville) 17-28	Tenn. Martin 3-38	Morehead State 21-9	Chattanooga 35-28	Eastern Kentucky 14-40	Murray State 20-24	Delaware 9-21	Andin Peay 9-21	Western Kentucky 7-38	Tennessee Tech 10-33		
TENNESSEE State		West Michigan 21-10	Ohio State 3-9	UCLA 21-9	Washington 7-38	Iowa 13-22	Northwestern 38-10	Michigan 0-15	Indiana 32-13	Michigan State 14-20	Wisconsin 17-26		
MINNESOTA State		Alabama (Huntingham) 10-7	Noire Dame (Jackson) 3-38	Southern Mississippi 28-0	Auburn 0-10	Georgia 21-17	South Carolina 7-10	Vanderbilt 20-3	Louisiana State (Baton Rouge) 9-45	Tennessee (Memphis) 6-32	Mississippi (Jackson) 11-28		
MISSISSIPPI State		Washington T		Florida (Jackson) 30-34	Kansas State F	Kentucky 14-7	Memphis State 42-33	Southern Mississippi 14-8	Alabama (Jackson) 17-34	Auburn 29-19	Mississippi (Jackson) 28-11		
MISSISSIPPI State Univ., Miss.		Southern California 46-25	Illinois 6-31	California 46-25	Arizona State 0-10	Iowa State 17-21	Oklahoma 30-27	Kansas State 28-21	Colorado 18-7	Nebraska 34-34	Oklahoma State 19-20	Kansas 14-41	
MONTANA State		Las Vegas 19-21	Northwestern 21-23	Portland State 49-59	Weber State 28-25	Boise State 17-14	Idaho 19-29	Idaho State 21-17	Montana State 19-21	Northwestern 33-0	Puget Sound 19-27	Portland State 10-33	
MONTANA State		North Dakota 18-14	North Dakota 34-7	Fresno State 10-24	Boise State 24-30	Weber State 44-0	Idaho State 28-7	Idaho State 21-17	Montana State 19-21	Northwestern 33-0	Puget Sound 19-27	Portland State 10-33	
MONTANA State		Virginia State 28-23	North Dakota 34-7	Delaware 10-24	North Carolina 12-10	Mid Eastern State 56-10	South Carolina 36-13	Delaware State 36-13	North Carolina 45-18	Virginia Union 13-20	Howard 34-15		
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MONTANA State		Grambling 28-23	North Dakota 34-7	Delaware 10-24	North Carolina 12-10	Mid Eastern State 56-10							

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TEXAS CHRISTIAN Ft. Worth 0-11		Southern Methodist 14-34	Oregon 7-7	Southern California U	Arkansas 14-46	Rice 23-26		Mississippi 0-49	Hendson 21-49	Texas Tech 10-14	Texas 7-34	Texas A&M 10-39	Baylor 19-24
TEXAS TECH Lubbock 10-1		New Mexico 20-16	East Carolina 20-16	Texas A & M 27-16	North Carolina U	Arizona 52-27	Rice 37-13	Ohio State 8-34	Texas 31-28	Texas Christian 14-10	Southern Methodist 38-7	Houston 19-27	Arkansas 30-7
TOLEDO Ohio 3-8		Ball State 14-27	East Carolina 20-16	Marshall 39-8	Eastern Michigan U	Bowling Green 28-29	Western Michigan 21-34	Ohio State 8-34	Miami (O.) 24-9	Northern Illinois 17-2	Central Michigan 72-9	Kent State 19-35	
TRINITY UNIV. San Antonio, Tex. 6-5		Nuevo Leon 48-30	Tarleton 7-0	Texas Lutheran 0-21	Killbuck 9-10	McMurry 16-21	Austin 35-14	Baptist Christian U	Sul Ross 13-7	McMurry 39-7	Colorado College 17-21		
TULANE New Orleans, La. 2-9		Memphis State 7-14	Stanford 20-0	Southern Methodist U	Vanderbilt 24-13	Boston College 3-27	Chickamaug 14-21	Georgia Tech 19-23	Pittsburgh U	Miami (Fla.) U	Rutgers 20-29	Louisiana State 7-17	
TULSA Oklahoma 7-3-1		Oklahoma State 21-33	Northeast Louisiana U	Arkansas 9-3	Wichita State 13-30	Louisville 20-10	Chickamaug 7-16	Georgia Tech 19-23	San Diego State U	Drake 45-20	New Mexico State 32-7	West Texas State 17-17	
UCLA Los Angeles, Calif. 9-2-1		Houston Brev. 12	Kansas 20-0	Minnesota U	Iowa 20-0	Stanford 38-20	Washington State (Spokane) 62-3	California 35-19	Washington 30-21	Oregon 46-6	Oregon State 46-14	Southern California Nov. 25	
UTAH Salt Lake City 3-8		Oklahoma U	Oklahoma U	Houston U	Colorado State U	Wyoming 23-45	Washington State (Spokane) 62-3	California 35-19	Arizona State 31-23	Brigham Young 19-34	Texas El Paso 38-14	Florida 14-24	New Mexico 34-31
UTAH STATE Logan 3-8		San Jose State 10-45	Memphis State U	Brigham Young 14-45	San Diego State U	Penn State U	Utah 22-17	Mississippi 3-20	Arizona State 31-23	Brigham Young 19-34	Texas El Paso 38-14	Florida 14-24	Colorado State 16
VANDERBILT Nashville, Tenn. 2-9		Oklahoma U	Wake Forest 27-24	Alabama 14-42	Tulane 19-24	Louisiana State 20-33	Georgia 0-45	Mississippi 3-20	Arizona State 31-23	Brigham Young 19-34	Texas El Paso 38-14	Florida 14-24	Colorado State 16
VILLANOVA Penn. 6-4-1		Youngstown U	Ball State U	Dartmouth 3-30	William & Mary U	Army U	Delaware 24-24	Delaware 24-24	West Virginia 7-23	Maryland 9-20	Holy Cross 52-21	Temple 24-7	
VIRGINIA Charlottesville 2-9		North Carolina State U	Texas U	Duke 6-21	West Virginia U	Clemson U	Virginia Tech 10-14	Wake Forest 13-17	Strawson U	Virginia Military 7-13	North Carolina 8-31	Morehead 0-28	
VIRGINIA Military 5-5		William & Mary 20-34	Army U	East Carolina 3-17	Clemson U	Richmond 0-43	Citadel 30-14	Lehigh U	Davidson U	Virginia 13-7	Purman 17-3	Rhode Island U	Virginia Tech U
VIRGINIA TECH. Blacksburg 6-5		Texas A & M 0-19	Texas A & M U	Memphis State U	Clemson U	William & Mary (Richmond) 15-27	Virginia 14-10	Richmond 0-16	Kentucky U	Florida State 21-28	West Virginia 24-7	White Forest 23-6	Virginia Military 37-7
WAKE FOREST Winston-Salem, N.C. 0-6		Vanderbilt 24-27	Vanderbilt U	North Carolina State U	Purdue U	North Carolina 14-34	Maryland 15-17	Virginia 17-18	Clemson 20-14	Duke 38-17	South Carolina 10-7	Virginia Tech U	
WASHINGTON Seattle 3-6		San Jose State U	San Jose State U	Strawson U	Minnesota 38-7	Oregon 14-7	Stanford 28-34	Oregon State 24-12	UCLA 21-39	California 0-7	Southern California 8-20	Washington State 51-32	
WASHINGTON Pullman 3-8		Nebraska U	Michigan State U	Kansas 16-35	Southern California (Sept. 30) 14-23	California 23-23	UCLA 3-62	Stanford 16-23	Oregon 22-23	Oregon State 20-24	Idaho 40-6	Washington 32-51	
WEBER STATE Ogden, Utah 2-9		Boise State 31-56	Portland U	Northwestern 18-30	Montana 25-23	Montana State 0-44	Las Vegas 16-23	Benildil U	Idaho 17-45	Idaho State 10-35	Idaho State 34-7		
WESTERN Michigan 7-4		Minnesota 10-31	Portland U	Northwestern 18-30	Montana 25-23	Montana State 0-44	Las Vegas 16-23	Benildil U	Idaho 17-45	Idaho State 10-35	Idaho State 34-7		
WEST TEXAS State 4-5-2		Wichita State 14-13	Wichita State U	North Texas 7-10	Texas A & M U	Kent State 13-13	Toledo 24-21	Marshall 31-21	Ohio 21-10	Miami (O.) U	Ball State 24-10	Central Michigan 42-14	
WEST VIRGINIA Martinsburg 5-6		Richmond 9-6	McNeese State 30-25	Kentucky 10-14	Virginia 21-25	New Mexico 13-13	Drake 14-34	Penn State 0-33	Indiana State U	Pittsburgh 16-24	Virginia Tech 7-24	Syracuse 34-23	
WICHITA STATE Kansas 4-7		Iowa State U	Kansas State U	Kansas State U	Tulsa 30-13	Temple 42-9	Boison College 3-14	Drake 38-23	Long Beach 14-24	Indiana State 17-20	Indiana State 17-20	Memphis State 0-31	
WILLIAM & MARY Williamsburg 7-4		Virginia U	Louisville U	Louisville U	Villanova U	Virginia Tech (Richmond) 37-25	Navy 21-15	Navy 21-15	Brigam U	East Carolina (Richmond) 15-20	Richmond 10-21	Richmond 10-21	
WISCONSIN Madison 5-6		Indiana 14-15	N. Illinois U	Oregon U	Northwestern 28-35	Illinois 25-31	Michigan 27-40	Michigan State U	Colorado State 10-19	Iowa 36-21	Iowa 36-21	Minnesota 26-17	
WYOMING Laramie 8-3		Air Force 21-41	Texas El Paso 14-10	Michigan State 10-21	Arizona 28-24	Utah 45-22	Utah 45-22	Brigham Young 24-39	Colorado State 10-19	Utah State 20-3	Utah State 20-3	New Mexico 24-23	Louisiana State U
YALE New Haven, Conn. 8-1		Brown 6-14	Brown U	Connecticut 21-10	Miami (O.) U	Massachusetts 25-31	Columbia 37-8	Pennsylvania 21-7	Cornell 39-7	Harvard 45-7	Harvard 45-7		
YOUNGSTOWN Ohio 4-8		Villanova 14-34	Tennessee Tech 10-13	Western Illinois 19-23	Massachusetts 25-31	Saginaw Valley U	Akron 2-24	Dartmouth 16-41	Wayne (Mich.) 0-28	Eastern Illinois 36-14	Central (O.) 45-7		

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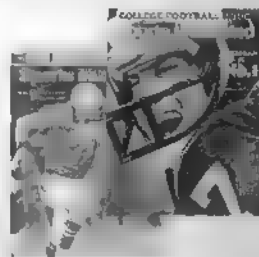
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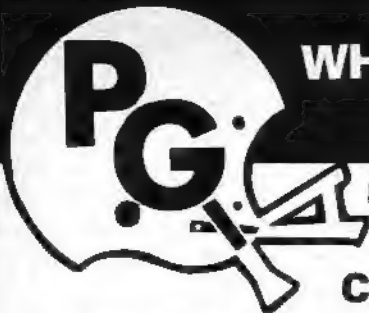
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